

Regent receives Indian dairy expert

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received Chairman and Managing Director of the National Dairy Development Board in India, Dr. Verghese Kurian, who presented a briefing on the Indian experience with regards to transferring India from a country that imported most of its dairy needs into a country with surplus products. Dr. Kurian, who arrived in Jordan at the invitation of Prince Hassan, met with a number of officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). He expressed admiration to the high standard achieved by Jordan in fruit and vegetable production. It was also agreed that a Jordanian delegation will visit the milk production cooperative organisation in India to get familiarised with the Indian experience. Dr. Kurian delivered a lecture at the HCST on India's expertise in dairy industries. The lecture was attended by the Crown Prince, the Indian ambassador in Amman, Royal Scientific Society President Dr. Jawad Anani and HCST Secretary General Dr. Adnan Badran. Dr. Kurian left Amman for home Monday evening.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday receives Syrian Minister of Higher Education Kamal Sharaf. Also present is Higher Education Minister Nassereddin Al Assad (Petra photo)

Crown Prince, Syrian minister discuss cooperation in education

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday held talks with visiting Syrian Minister of Higher Education Kamal Sharaf on Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in education, in the presence of Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad.

Prince Hassan reviewed challenges in the field of education posed to Jordan and Syria and their relations to development, and discussed new trends in education to cope with the present economic circumstances.

The two sides also reviewed means for curtailing educational specialisations of which there is a

great abundance of graduates who are still unemployed.

Jordan, Prince Hassan said, "is in the process of initiating departments at its universities designed to guide graduates towards choosing proper careers which are available and useful for community."

He said in this regard coordination can be made with Syria with which Jordanian universities can exchange expertise and information in linking higher education with the society's economic needs.

Sharaf welcomed the idea and voiced his country's readiness to launch cooperation for the benefit of students through their respective universities.

Sharaf said that this step could lead to cooperation in joint economic development projects, such as the construction of Al Wadiah Dam.

Also Monday, Sharaf visited the Amman Community College, which is operated by the Ministry of Higher Education, and was briefed on its programmes and future plans.

The college turns out teachers and engineering technicians. Later, the minister and his delegation toured a number of archaeological sites in and around Amman.

Al Hussein, Thatcher discuss Mideast

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday conferred with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street. The discussions focused on the current international issues, with special emphasis on the Middle East question, the efforts exerted to attain comprehensive peace in the region, as well as bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifa'i and Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

At the conclusion of the meeting, King Hussein said his meeting with Mrs. Thatcher "was an opportunity to discuss the major issues which preoccupy the world, the various regional issues and bilateral relations."

The King also expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting.

The King said that he is still optimistic with U.S. President George Bush's administration.

Qasem lauds establishment of ACC, Maghreb Union King Fahd opens OIC meeting

RIYADH (Agencies) — Muslim Foreign Ministers opened a 4-day conference Monday seeking to head off a confrontation between Iran and Saudi Arabia over Tehran's efforts to broaden its diplomatic war with the West over the novel "The Satanic Verses" and recognition of the rebel government in Afghanistan.

Saudi King Fahd launched the meeting of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) with a three-minute speech welcoming participants and wishing them success.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem also addressed the conference Monday praising the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union "which serve in reinforcing and gathering the Arab and Islamic capabilities to build a bright future."

Qasem conveyed the good wishes of His Majesty King Hussein, as well as those of the Jordanian government and people.

He also lauded the great role Saudi Arabia and King Fahd play in supporting the Islamic nation's causes and giving aid to OIC member countries.

Reviewing the developments which took place in the occupied Palestinian territories, Afghanistan,

Lebanon, as well as the Iran-Iraq war, Qasem said that positions of the OIC countries have been identical toward the developments in these areas, and they were active at the international forums.

He called for reactivating the information role of the Islamic group in New York in the service and defence of Islamic causes.

He also highlighted the need to consider establishing a special information committee at the U.N. headquarters so as to provide the necessary services to the Islamic group.

The OIC elected Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal as president of the current OIC sessions. It also elected the envoys of Malaysia, Mali and Palestine as vice presidents and Jordan as rapporteur.

It was agreed to form four committees stemming from the conference, in order to study the issue on the agenda and discuss the views of the member coun-

McFarlane: North redid old memos

WASHINGTON (R) — Oliver North rewrote old memos on fund-raising and military aid for the Nicaraguan contras after two congressional committees inquired about his activities, Robert McFarlane testified Monday. McFarlane, the former national security adviser and North's White House boss during the Reagan administration, said he asked North to take another look at six memoranda culled from National Security Council (NSC) files in response to inquiries in August 1985 from the House Intelligence Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Latin America. "There was some impression of duplicity" in the memos, McFarlane testified in North's criminal trial. "I thought it gave a distorted impression of the facts." North has pleaded innocent to 12 charges, including lying to Congress and improperly using a tax-exempt charity to collect funds for contra weapons, stemming from his role in the 1985-86 Iran-contra scandal.

Israelis seize property, make arrests to harass Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli authorities reopened an Arab village within Jerusalem's boundaries Monday after keeping residents in their homes for five days, arresting 40 Palestinians and confiscating hundreds of electrical appliances in tax raids.

The measures came as the Bush administration was reported to be pressing Israel to limit arrests and ease economic restrictions on Palestinians in order to "create a climate more conducive to peace talks."

Police said the closure of Issawiye, an Arab village of several thousand, was ordered so police could find and arrest Palestinian youths wanted for anti-Israeli activities.

But residents said the action, during which televisions, hair driers, irons and vehicles were seized, amounted to harassment.

The curfew in Issawiye, which was incorporated into Jerusalem after the 1967 Middle East war, was the longest imposed in the city since the start of the 15-month Palestinian uprising.

Unlike the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where curfews are in effect nearly every day, only four have been imposed in annexed Arab areas of Jerusalem.

"There were reports that people involved in disturbances live in Issawiye. To arrest all of them a curfew was necessary to aid in the searches," police spokesman Uri Sandori told the Associated Press.

But the residents disagreed. "The police could have rounded up the people they arrested in a few hours. There was no reason for a five-day curfew," said Rihab Essawi, a professor at Hebron University who lives in the village. "This was harassment and revenge. No one can tell us otherwise."

Issawiye residents say police

made most of the arrests during house-to-house searches Wednesday in which 21 youths were detained for alleged anti-Israeli activities.

Then the tax authorities moved in, confiscating vehicles, televisions and other property, and detaining another 19 villagers who owed back taxes or were behind in loan payments to Israeli banks, the residents said.

"They took hair driers, irons, a sewing machine, even rugs. They took three trucks, five cars and about 95 per cent of the televisions in the village," said Ms. Essawi, who is an American citizen.

Sandori, the police spokesman, said the tax authorities took advantage of the closure to confiscate property from residents who owed back income, municipal and broadcast authority taxes. "They took things from houses that were owed to them," he said.

But Ms. Essawi and other residents said the tax collectors went to every home in the village, regardless of whether they owed back taxes or not.

Ms. Essawi's brother, Hanni, said the authorities seized his television even though he produced receipts showing his tax payments were in order. "They said I hadn't paid a TV tax since 1985. I told them that in 1985 I was living with my parents and didn't even own a TV," Essawi said.

The villagers also cited the case of one man who had his two cars seized despite offering proof he'd paid his taxes. They said the authorities eventually returned the cars, but only after the village paid 200 shekels (\$111) in storage fees.

Rabha Derbas, the wife of an employed stone layer, said the tax authorities confiscated a coloured television, two cassette players and a stone-polishing device before spotting an old electric pump the family used to draw water from an outdoor well.

"They disconnected the pump and took that too. They looked behind tables, under beds, searching for electrical appliances," said Mrs. Derbas. She said she was told the property would not be returned until the family paid 36,000 shekels (\$20,000) in back income and other taxes.

"What can we do? We can barely keep food on the table. There's no way we can pay such a sum," she said.

Israeli troops clashed with commandos in South Lebanon Monday, killing at least three, meanwhile, a suspected Palestinian collaborator was found beaten to death and two Arab teenagers were shot and wounded in the occupied territories.

Israeli soldiers shot and killed three Arab commandos after a pre-dawn chase for several hours through the hills of South Lebanon, the army and Israeli news reports said.

But a Lebanese police spokesman said four guerrillas were killed in Monday's fighting. The spokesman said they apparently were Palestinians trying to carry out a raid into Israel.

In the occupied territories a suspected Palestinian collaborator with Israel was reportedly found beaten to death. The army confirmed the discovery of the body and said it was investigating.

Two Palestinian teenagers suffered bullet wounds in the abdomen and chest during clashes between soldiers and stone-throwing youths in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip, Arab news reports said.

"Aoun should seek a solution through political rather than military means," Berri said, speaking shortly before the port came under mortar fire.

The civilian cabinet of Acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss ordered the closure of Beirut port and Jounieh harbour, controlled by the Falangist militia, in retaliation for Aoun's ban on flights.

Although the airport lies in territory controlled by the Hoss government, airlines complied with Aoun's ban because insurance companies suspended cover.

Aoun had banned flights in retaliation for the weekend battles with PSP militia, which here themselves sparked by Aoun's blockade of militia ports.

Two of the seven ports, the main source of income for the militias, are run by the PSP. The transport bans virtually isolated Lebanon, leaving it with the road route to Damascus as its only access to the outside world.

Ceasefire fails to hold in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Troops loyal to the civilian government bombarded Beirut's Falangist-held port Monday in a new round of sectarian tit-for-tat action against air and sea traffic, security sources said.

Troops under Major-General Sami Al Khatib fired mortar bombs at the harbour despite a conciliatory move by the military government leader Michel Aoun who lifted a two-day ban he had imposed on the airport.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the bombardment, which followed a week-long power struggle between Aoun's government and the rival administration.

Aoun's government said earlier it was allowing the airport to reopen because a weekend of fierce artillery duels between its forces and the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) had eased.

Airport sources said two aircraft of Lebanon's freight airline TMA took off from the airport, which closed Saturday night.

But Shi'ite Muslim militia leader Nabih Berri, a member of the civilian cabinet, told reporters: "The reopening of Beirut's airport is not enough."

He said Aoun should also end a blockade of militia ports which he imposed last week in a bid to extend his government's authority.

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SMILES OF VICTORY: Mujahideen fighters in high spirits after winning a major victory on the Kabul-Jalalabad road during the second half of February. Jalalabad is still in the hands of the

Kabul government forces and fierce fighting is still continuing (more photos and story on page 2) Sygma photo

Independent state not negotiable — PLO aide

NEW YORK (AP) — Ending the uprising in Israeli-occupied territories before agreement on a Middle East peace plan would be putting the cart before the horse, a PLO official said at a symposium of Palestinians and Israeli peace activists.

"Let's put the horse where it should be and the cart where it should be. And the horse is the peace arrangement," said Nabil Shaath, chairman of the political committee of the Palestine National Council.

"What is not negotiable is the final result, an independent Palestinian state side by side with the state of Israel," Shaath said Sunday during meetings at Columbia University.

However, an American-Jewish lawyer who met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Sweden last year, said the steps are needed "on the ground" towards real peace negotiations.

The PLO needs to reassure those who fear that it may engage in violence, she said.

Many symposium panelists agreed that international Middle East peace efforts should be intensified and should include direct U.S. acceptance of the need for a two-state solution.

Many of the PLO representatives, in New York with special

permission from the U.S. government, and those from the Israeli peace movement agreed that an international conference was needed to establish a Palestinian state. They spoke during the second day of the three-day conference.

In addition to the 15-month-old anti-Israeli uprising, in which almost 400 Palestinians and 17 Israelis have died, a major topic Sunday was a newspaper report that the United States plans proposals to ease tensions.

The New York Times said the proposals, to be made to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Washington and to the PLO by the U.S. ambassador to Tunis, would include asking the PLO to halt the violent demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israelis would be asked to halt or limit detentions of Palestinians, while freeing some held.

Shaath said he wondered if the proposal were a "trick" intended to persuade the Palestinians to halt the uprising.

Rita Hauser, a New York lawyer who led an American-Jewish delegation that met with Arafat in December before his announcement of the PLO's recognition of the state of Israel and its renunciation of terrorism, welcomed the reported U.S. initiative.

'Soviets offered to host Palestinian-Israeli talks'

ABU DHABI (R) — The Soviet Union has offered to host talks between Israel and the PLO on arrangements for an international peace conference, a PLO official said.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed-Rabbo told the Dubai-based daily Al Bayan the offer was made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during talks in Cairo last month.

"Shevardnadze said Moscow was ready to host a PLO-Israeli dialogue to discuss arrangements for an international conference if both sides agreed," Abed-Rabbo was quoted as saying by Al Bayan.

He did not say how Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) responded to the Soviet offer.

The interview was conducted early last week in Tunis, before Thursday's announcement of a resumption of U.S.-PLO contacts, and Abed-Rabbo told Al Bayan that the United States was trying to exclude the PLO from peace talks.

"The U.S. has an understanding with Israel to try and use (Israeli) contacts with Palestinian personalities in the occupied territories to give the impression that finding an alternative to PLO is possible," he said.

"This is the real American tac-

tic and goal, which still seeks to exclude the PLO and find Arab or Palestinian alternatives," Abed-Rabbo told Al Bayan.

The U.S. said Thursday it was arranging for more talks with the PLO after a pause in contacts since December. No date was set.

Israel to jail Arafat
Meanwhile an aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday, Israel would send PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat straight to jail if he came to Israel to talk peace.

Commenting on a statement by Arafat to an Italian newspaper that he was ready to go to occupied Jerusalem to talk to Israeli leaders, aide Yossi Ahimier told Reuters: "If he comes he will be taken straight to jail."

Arafat told La Repubblica he was ready to follow in the footsteps of slain Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat whose 1977 visit led to an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

CORRECTION
Monday's edition of the Jordan Times published an advertisement for the Arab Jordan Investment Bank in which the mentioned bank was called the Jordan Arab Investment Bank. We regret this error.



Mujahideen heading towards the city of war, and scenes from the battle of Jalalabad (Sygma photos)



Thousands flee Jalalabad

PESHAWAR (R) — Thousands of refugees fleeing from fierce fighting around the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad have poured into Pakistan and many more are streaming towards the border, Afghan rebels said Monday.

A Mujahideen fighter who returned to Pakistan from the Jalalabad area Monday said crowds of old men, children and women, clutching babies and bundles of possessions were heading towards the Khyber Pass frontier.

"The refugees were marching towards the Pakistani border," said Mullah Torkhani of the Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) Party. "There may be 20,000 or 30,000 of them."

Drivers were finding it difficult to use the highway, which is mostly controlled by the Mujahideen, because of refugees on the road, other rebels said.

Thousands of Afghans from in

and around Jalalabad have already crossed into Pakistan to escape what Kabul government officials have described as the heaviest fighting of the 10-year-old war.

A Pakistani official said more than 4,000 had reached one refugee camp near the north west Pakistani city of Peshawar in the past few days.

The western-backed rebels launched their assault on the provincial capital a week ago. Government forces responded with heavy bombing and shelling and say they halted the rebel advance.

Rebel sources said fighting was continuing Monday but at a

much lower level.

Residents of the Pakistani town of Landi Kotal, on top of the Khyber Pass, said by telephone that the sound of government planes bombing the rebels had been clearly audible in recent days but could not be heard Monday.

The sources said the guerrillas were some four to five kilometres from the city centre, but much closer to the airport, a centre of heavy fighting for several days. The Pakistan-based Mujahideen are keen to capture a major Afghan city to gain credibility for the provisional government they chose at a congress in Pakistan last month.

President Najibullah's Soviet-backed administration has dismissed the provisional government as a creation of Pakistani intelligence. But three countries — Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Bahrain

— have recognised it as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

The rebel sources said some refugees had tried to go from Jalalabad to Kabul to the West, but the armed forces had turned them back on the road.

An estimated five million people have fled to Pakistan and Iran since the Soviet military intervention of 1979 and live in refugee camps.

Most of the latest fugitives are members of families who had supported the Kabul government, the rebel sources said.

"God is taking revenge on them for what they did to our people," said a spokesman for the Hezb-i-Islami Party led by Younus Khalis, which has a large following in Nangrahar province where Jalalabad is the capital. "The Mujahideen are now more kind to them," he said.



Iraq-based Mujahideen release 644 prisoners

BAGHDAD (R) — The main Iranian opposition group, the Mujahideen Khalq, is releasing 644 prisoners of war (PoWs) captured during military operations in Iran.

The Iraq-based group said Monday the Iranians would be "smuggled" back across the frontier into Iran by units of the Mujahideen National Liberation Army (NLA).

Three hundred and fifty U.N. observers patrol the border, which ranges from swampy and desert in the south to rugged mountains in the north.

Large numbers of Iranian and Iraqi troops are still dug in along the 1,200 kilometre frontier, sometimes only a few hundred metres apart.

"Those released are freed at a time when (Iran's) spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's regime has massacred thousands

of political prisoners..." a spokesman said in Baghdad.

A Mujahideen spokesman told Reuters earlier this month that Iran had executed 12,000 political prisoners since the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the eight-year-long Gulf war.

The group told Reuters that its leader Masoud Rajavi had ordered the release of the PoWs — most captured during the NLA offensive against Mehran in June last year — to mark the start of the Iranian new year March 21.

The group said the release would bring to 2,646 the number of PoWs it had freed from camps near the Iran-Iraq border.

Among those being freed were the chief of staff of Iran's 16th armoured division Colonel Ali Akbar Gholamrezaei and a Lieutenant Colonel Esmail Bidari, the Mujahideen said.

Mahdi pledges to protect minorities

KHARTOUM (R) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi promised Monday to protect the rights of Sudan's non-Muslim minority whose fears of domination have fuelled a five-year civil war in the south.

He told parliament that a constitutional conference, to be attended by rebels from the mainly animist and Christian south, would take the final decision on whether to impose Islamic Sharia laws, an issue that helped spark the war.

"The Muslim majority is bound by its faith to an Islamic direction. It is also concerned that the full citizenship, religious and human rights of non-Muslims should be protected," he said.

Mahdi, whose cabinet resigned Saturday, is forming a new broad-based coalition government

under pressure from the army. Generals demanded last month that he form such a government and either spend more on defence or seek a peaceful end to the war against the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The crisis coincides with a U.N. appeal for a one-month ceasefire in April to let hundreds of thousands of tonnes of relief supplies be delivered to the south.

Mahdi has agreed to the proposed truce but the SPLA has yet to announce its decision.

The Prime Minister Monday also urged trade unions to agree to a temporary freeze on strikes in exchange for their proposed inclusion in the new government.

Sharia Laws have been at the heart of the southern rebellion since it flared in 1983.

Famine alarm rings in war-torn Sudan

AL MUGLAD, Sudan (Agencies) — Signs that last year's devastating famine in Sudan may be repeated are emerging as hundreds of people flee the war-ravaged south in search of food.

The signs have given new urgency to a diplomatic drive by the United Nations for "a month of tranquillity" in the five-year-old civil war so that food may be distributed.

U.N. Children's Fund Director James Grant said Saturday that officials of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had told him in Addis Ababa that they would decide whether to agree to the truce after studying the relief plan.

It was drawn up by an international conference last week.

Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, under pressure from his generals to either boost defence spending or seek a peaceful end to the war, has accepted the relief plan and proposed truce.

Foreign relief workers and local officials in Al Muglad, 750 kilometres southwest of Khartoum, said that several hundred southerners trekked daily into the town and Abjei, further south.

South Kordofan has a 1,200-kilometre border with Upper

Nile and Bahr Al Ghazal which with Equatoria region have been struck repeatedly by famine since the war began in 1983.

Kordofan Governor Abdul Rasoul Al Nour told reporters that a total of 200,000 southerners were expected to arrive in the region this year to join 300,000 people already there.

At least three million people have sought refuge outside the south where the Animist and Christian SPLA rebels fight to end what they see as rule by a minority clique in Khartoum.

The effects of the famine, estimated to have killed 250,000 people last year, have been made worse by the civil war.

Mark Cunningham, Kordofan director for the Irish Charity Concern, warned of a possible re-run of last year's tragedy.

Refugees from the south also face bitter ethnic tensions and the possibility of forced labour in their new home.

Relief officials said the army regarded some of the refugees, mainly from the Dinka tribe of tall and traditional warriors, as security risks and could force the able-bodied to work on farms in harsh conditions.

U.S. indicts Lebanese linked to Swiss scam

BERNE (R) — Two Lebanese brothers suspected of involvement in the "biggest money-laundering scheme in Switzerland's history" have been indicted by a United States court, the U.S. embassy said Monday.

A U.S. district court in Los Angeles last week indicted Jean and Barkev Magharian on charges of conspiracy to launder money and to transport currency out of the United States without filing reports, an embassy statement said.

Prosecutors have described the brothers as middlemen in a billion-dollar operation to hide the origin of drugs proceeds. The two are being held in investigative custody in Switzerland while investigators probe what has become known as the "Lebanon connection."

The embassy statement said U.S. officials were considering asking Switzerland to extradite the Magharians to face additional charges.

The public prosecutor in the Canton of Ticino has said the Magharians channelled more than two billion Swiss francs (\$1.3 billion) through Swiss banks and trading houses between 1985 and 1988. They knew at least some of the money stemmed from drug

sales, including \$36 million they received from a cocaine dealer in California, the prosecutor has said.

The U.S. indictment charges that drug dealers secretly sent money via couriers from the United States to the Magharians in Switzerland, where the brothers deposited the funds into bank accounts before transferring them to Panama.

"Once deposited in the Panamanian bank accounts, the money was available for profit taking or further laundering by the narcotics traffickers," the statement said.

A Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman said legal authorities would have to review whether the Magharians could be extradited if the United States made such a request.

Money laundering is not a crime in Switzerland unless the money stems from drug sales and will be used again for drug deals. Transporting money abroad is also not illegal.

The government has said it plans to introduce legislation this year that would make it an offence punishable by up to five years in jail for concealing the criminal origin of money.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli colonel steals dead man's watch

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A colonel in the Israeli army was suspended from his post for stealing a wristwatch off the body of a dead commando, the army spokesman said Sunday. Lieutenant-General Dan Shoshon, the chief of staff of Israel's armed forces, notified the colonel of the suspension after a military investigation indicated he had stolen the dead man's watch, the army spokesman said. The colonel was identified only as "Colonel R." and the spokesman said he was an "experienced and a veteran fighter." He was suspended from his post pending clarification of the legal ramifications of the incident, the spokesman said. Also Sunday, a Jaffa military court convicted Sergeant Pinchas Biton of arranging military exemptions for reservist soldiers in exchange for bribes, the Israeli news agency (ITIM) said. Sergeant Biton procured the exemptions based on false medical documents. The scandal involving the military exemptions rocked Israeli society last year when it was first exposed.

Iraq, Kuwait to link water supplies

BAGHDAD (R) — Kuwait and Iraq agreed in principle Sunday on a project to connect their national water grids, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. INA said Kuwait, during the first phase of the project, would import 350 million gallons of water a day for drinking and 200 million gallons a day for irrigation. A joint technical committee was formed to work on the details. Kuwait's minister of electricity and water, Hamoud Abdullah Al Raqba, met Iraqi local government Minister Adnan Daoud Salaman in Baghdad Sunday to discuss the supply of water. Kuwait, a desert country which depends mainly on desalinated water, has been studying the construction of a 290-kilometre pipeline from southern Iraq.

Royals get Royal Kuwaiti welcome

KUWAIT (AP) — Prince Charles and his wife, Princess Diana, arrived Sunday to a red-carpet welcome at the start of a one-week visit to Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Kuwait's heir apparent, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah who serves as prime minister, greeted the British royal couple at Kuwait International Airport along with cabinet members and senior officials. The Prince and Princess of Wales were accompanied by senior Buckingham Palace officials and several prominent British businessmen, an official statement said. A mission of honour, headed by Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, has been set up to accompany Charles, the heir to the British throne, during the Kuwait visit. The couple will have a hectic round of official engagements aimed at strengthening trade links with Britain during their visit to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

China reconstruction role in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Chinese deputy Prime Minister Tian Jiyun Monday discussed Chinese participation in Iraq's post-war reconstruction with his Iraqi counterpart Taha Yassin Ramadan. Chinese diplomats reported. The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the two also discussed the stalled Gulf War peace negotiations, international issues and the expansion of bilateral trade. The Iran-Iraq war ended Aug. 20 when a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire went into effect. Both countries are now gearing up for reconstruction projects. China already is a major Iraqi trade partner and Chinese construction firms have carried out numerous projects here. Their annual trade volume, excluding military purchases, averaged \$130 million during the war years. According to Western defence experts China also supplied both Iran and Iraq with weaponry worth billions of dollars during the war.

Diouf, Qadhafi hold talks

TUNIS (R) — Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, on his first visit to Libya since becoming president in 1981, opened talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in the eastern city of Benghazi Monday, the official news agency JANA said. Diouf, who received Qadhafi in Dakar in December 1985, is expected to discuss economic and commercial cooperation. Relations between Senegal and Libya have improved in recent years as Libya began to disengage itself from the civil war in Chad. On arrival in Benghazi Sunday, Diouf said he appreciated Qadhafi's moves to restore peace in Chad but much more remained to be done to make the peace durable.

Iraqi ministers leave for Yemens

BAGHDAD (R) — Two Iraqi ministers left Sunday on separate trips to the Yemens, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. It said first deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan went to Sanaa with a letter from President Saddam Hussein for North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi would visit both North and South Yemen, INA said. Iraq and North Yemen joined Egypt and Jordan last month in setting up the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Bomb planted behind Iranian restaurant

ORANGE COUNTY, California (AP) — A device that appeared to be a pipe bomb was planted behind an Iranian restaurant Sunday, forcing authorities to evacuate the area before explosives experts determined it was a fake, police said. No arrests were made in the case, authorities said. Police Sergeant Tim Brown speculated that it may have been in response to Friday's bombing of a van being driven by the wife of the navy captain who shot down an Iranian airliner over the Gulf. "There were no threats and no prior problems of any kind, but with all the media attention from the San Diego bombing a lot of people might have been upset," Brown said. The replica pipe bomb was discovered by a teen-age employee of a neighbouring business behind the Dehkhadeh restaurant about 11 a.m. (1900 GMT), the sergeant said. He said the phony device was fitted with a wire inside, likely to make it appear realistic when X-rayed. About five nearby homes and the occupants of about 10 businesses were evacuated for several hours.

Ozal party hopes to turn trend around

ANKARA (AP) — Premier Turgut Ozal's ruling Motherland Party, whose electoral support slipped sharply since it came to power in 1983, hopes to halt the trend in nationwide local elections this month.

Turkish voters go to the polls March 26 to elect mayors, provincial assembly members, city council members, village headmen and neighbourhood representatives.

The polls have no legal bearing on Ozal's national government. The next general election is scheduled in 1992.

But the opposition has once again presented the local elections as a gauge of the national mood. It contends a crushing defeat for the Motherland could force Ozal to call an early election.

"We will first change the municipalities, then the government. It is time for Motherland people to pack their bags," Erdal Inonu, leader of the chief opposition Social Democrat Populist Party, has told campaign crowds.

Motherland officials scoff at such slogans. "The opposition will not realise its expectations and we will keep our ground," said Halil Sivgin,



Turgut Ozal

one of the assistant chairmen of Ozal's centre-right party.

But support for Ozal has been steadily sliding since he led the Motherland Party to power in 1983, capturing 45 per cent of the votes and the first parliamentary majority since 1969. In the last general elections in 1987, the party received 36 per cent of the votes, but kept its majority under an election system that favours the largest party.

In local elections five years ago, Motherland garnered 41 per cent of the votes and 54 out of 67 mayorships in provincial capitals.

Last November, Ozal lost a referendum he called to move up the date of the local elections. High inflation currently running at 75 per cent, has taken its toll on the party's popularity. To restrain prices, the government has applied the brakes on an economic boom.

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

15:08 'Asr

17:45 Maghreb

19:02 Isha

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:45 Programme review

17:00 Children programmes

17:30 Religious programme

18:00 News summary in Arabic

18:05 Programme on world news

18:20 Programme on children

19:10 Agricultural programme

19:45 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:30 Programme review

21:40 Local programme

22:30 Arabic programme

23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Belle Anglaise

19:00 News in French

19:15 French varieties

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 The Tin Flute

21:10 News in English

22:20 (Hunter)

PRAYER TIMES

04:27 Fajr

05:44 (Sunrise) Duha

11:45 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifeth Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 623785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassat Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625343

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822905

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy and rain is expected to fall in all parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be southwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with possible scattered showers. Winds will be southerly fresh and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 5 / 14
Aqaba 10 / 21
Deserts 4 / 18
Jordan Valley 11 / 20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 602507
Dr. Adel Dabboud 893644
Dr. Yousef Al Hourani 625478
Dr. Akram Saman 894611
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 670553

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644045
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBD:
Dr. Ali Al Omari (—)
Al Sharra pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Latif Sharbini (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62260903
Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65639091
Public Security Department

Emergency Hospital 650001 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661646
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/52
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann. 642381/6
Aklieh Maternity, J. Ann. 642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmeisani 644714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushtak Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Complaints 787111
Telephone information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 663681
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 500 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Malabar) 300 / 250
Broad beans 170 / 120
Cabbage 120 / 100
Carrots 200 / 160
Cauliflower 130 / 100
Cucumbers 420 / 360
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 270 / 230
Grapefruit 360 / 320
Lemon 430 / 380
Lettuce (per one) 120 / 100
Marrow (large) 200 / 150

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-3, where it should always be verified.

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Israel bars clergymen from entering Palestine

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli authorities have taken measures to abort a meeting in Jerusalem by church delegations from Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, and delegation members were forced to raise the question with the United Nations and other world organisations.

A statement issued by the Anglican Church in Amman, which is organising the meeting, said that the Israelis had wanted to subject church delegates to inhuman treatment at the bridges across the River Jordan which

promoted the delegates to return to Jordan and raise the issue with the world organisations.

The delegation members were heading for a meeting to discuss issues pertaining to the Anglican Church and its activities in the Arab region, according to the statement. It said that on previous occasions, church delegations were allowed in without any difficulty.

The delegation members have now postponed their visit to Jerusalem until the Israeli authorities

have taken proper measures to facilitate their entry, the statement noted.

The Anglican bishop office here sent protest notes to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Archbishop of Canterbury in the United Kingdom, Pope John Paul II in Rome and the World Council of Churches complaining of Israel's inhuman treatment which it said was obstructing religious and official church business in the Holy Land.



Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan (right) and West German Ambassador Herwig Bartels (left) Monday sign an agreement by which Germany lends Jordan DM 4.4 million (Petra photo)

Arab World to coordinate social security

AMMAN (Petra) — A pan-Arab Social Security Society (ASSS) will be set up before the end of 1989 to help promote the activities and objectives of various social security services in the Arab World. Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director General Mahdi Al Farhan announced Monday.

Farhan said that an executive programme for the projected society was worked out by a preparatory committee that met in Rabat in the past week.

Jordan submitted the proposal for the creation of this society and the proposal was discussed by the committee which comprised

representatives from Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the Arab Social Security Centre, Farhan noted.

Farhan said that the committee approved of the idea and worked out an executive programme which is being distributed to various Arab states to sound out their views and to invite proposals that could be included in the society's statutes. He said that the committee which is due to meet in Tripoli, Libya, towards the end of June is expected to give the project its final endorsement before directors of social security services in the Arab World can be

invited for a general meeting to make the formal proclamation, Farhan pointed out.

He said that the projected society aims to help social security services in the Arab World, exchange expertise and information on social security matters and means of providing better social welfare for Arab workers.

The society's idea, Farhan noted, was originally discussed at a general meeting held in Amman in 1985 and attended by directors of social security services. It was decided then on the formation of a preparatory committee, which, in turn, paved the way for the society's establishment.

W. Germany lends DM 4.4 m to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — West Germany Monday agreed to lend Jordan DM 4.4 million as part of German aid to Jordan, the Federal Republic of Germany's embassy here announced.

The amount will be used to finance the project "Shidiya Phosphate Mine" being implemented by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.

Also on Monday four notes concerning German technical aid to four Jordanian development projects in the amount of DM 7.4 million were also signed at the Ministry of Planning. These notes were:

Note concerning the setting up of a special institution for the training and qualification of hospital technicians with a view to increasing the efficiency of operational and medico-technical services in Jordan. The note provides for the assignment of German experts as well as the supply of various technical equipment for that purpose.

The second note calls on the German government to assist the government of Jordan in training nursing staff and midwives in

southern Jordan with a view to improving nursing standards, in the hospitals and health centres in southern Jordan.

According to the third note Germany shall make available to Jordan the necessary funds to finance secondment of German experts and other activities such as the preparation of studies.

The fourth note outlines the cooperation between the two governments in seed production with a view to ensuring the production of a high-quality wheat and barley seed. This project shall be implemented in cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Jordan and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation on the one hand, and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on the other.

The agreement and four notes were signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and German Ambassador Herwig Bartels. The signing ceremony was attended by a number of officials of the German embassy and the Ministry of Planning.

Haj Hassan returns after attending Arab League meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan returned to Amman Monday after taking part in meetings by the executive bureau of the Arab Ministers of Transport Council held in Tunis in the past week.

In a statement here, the minister said that the bureau discussed a host of subjects which included among others the general position of Arab League-affiliated organisations concerned with promoting land, maritime and air

transport in the Arab World.

The bureau members also reviewed the activities of these organisations and means of promoting their operations to serve the Arab World's economy, the minister added.

The bureau, he said, heard a detailed report on the financial, technical and administrative positions of these organisations and reviewed various resolutions passed by the Arab Economic and Social Council concerning transport and communications in the Arab World.

'Speak kindly to the beast'

Farmers' interest key to self-sufficiency in dairy production

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan could become self-sufficient in dairy production if proper marketing strategies would guarantee that farmers get enough profit to make their business worthwhile, according to Indian dairy expert Dr. Verghese Kurien, better known as the father of the "dairy revolution" in India.

Dr. Kurien, chairman of the National Dairy Development Board in Anand, India, recently spent several days in Jordan to examine whether India's experience in dairy development can be of use to Jordan.

India, according to Kurien, accomplished its "dairy revolution" by concentrating on its farmers. Approximately 73 per cent of India's 800 million inhabitants, Kurien says, are farmers. There are 250 million heads of cows or buffaloes in the whole of India, and ensuring optimum production of milk from those animals is not a difficult task, according to Kurien.

"Speak kindly to the beast, give it water and a handful of grass and it will double its production of milk," he says. "It really does not require high technology."

The key to India's self-sufficiency in dairy production, he believes, is the Indian farmer himself. "The moment the farmer finds that he gets a profit for his production, he will take interest in the welfare of his cow and double its milk production. So what is needed is a constant (guaranteed) market for the milk produced," Kurien said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

No middlemen.

The Indian experience, Kurien explained, was successful for the following reasons: to the Indian farmer, a guaranteed market was an incentive for increased production. Once that was established, it was ensured that no "middlemen" walked away with a considerable part of the profit. The cooperative system, where the farmer himself owned the procurement, processing and marketing system, therefore, ensured the farmer full profit.

By following the cooperative system, Kurien said, "we found that the farmer got more money and took more interest in the business. We created democratic structures with democratic institutions right down to the village level. It involved our farmers in the right processes of development and placed in their hands the very instruments of development."

According to Kurien, 70 per cent of the dairy industry in the U.S. takes the form of cooperatives. In West Germany, that figure is even higher — 90 per cent. "Cooperatives ensure that the system transfers to the farmers the maximum share of the consumer's money," Kurien asserted.

Kurien, who visited Jordan upon the invitation of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), believes that the Kingdom's small size and its developed infrastructure are in asset even though the small market can be a disadvantage at times.

Jordan can make it

Jordan, he believes, should have no difficulty in satisfying public demand for milk, and his visit to the country was aimed at finding out how best Jordan could do that. Kurien suggested several possibilities, all of which, he said, were Monday discussed with HCST and other involved officials in an attempt to arrive at the best solutions for dairy self-sufficiency in the Kingdom.

Examples of the possibilities he suggested include the import of "very good quality" animals, local production of fodder as well as the possibility of using buffaloes rather than cows since the former are considered more suitable for warm weather conditions.

Kurien, who by no means advocates the idea of "the government trying to do the business that can be best done by others" believes that the government still has to "govern" in the dairy production domain.

The government, he says, should ensure that the quality of milk and milk products is up to acceptable standards. It should also take care of production planning so that the country's demand for dairy products is met at all times. But that, he says, does not mean that the government should "run every dairy farm or feed every cow through governmental channels."

Resort to cooperatives

In India, where, according to Kurien, 40 per cent of the people live below the poverty line, there is a need for a certain "dose of socialism" in the country's economic policy. Thus, the logic of resorting to cooperatives where farmers, rather than those with capital, own and control the means of production. "It is a blend of free enterprise on the one hand, and socialism on the other — an acceptable form of doing business in the dairy field."

Kurien warns of the import of milk especially vis-a-vis multinational corporations (MNCs) that have commercial interests in the issue. "Once you start importing milk powder then the vested interests (of MNCs) get developed in those imports... their interest in increasing imports grows and loyalty to the idea of the country becoming self-sufficient (is lost)," he concluded.

According to Jordan's External Trade Statistics, the Kingdom imported JD 16.3 million worth of dairy products in 1986.

Egypt imports more Jordanian glass, marble

CAIRO (Petra) — Egypt is making arrangements for easing trade with Jordan still further, and has announced that it was importing Jordanian glass and marble without any customs duty.

The announcement was made here by Mohammad Alawneh, economic attaché at the Jordanian embassy in Egypt following a meeting with Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusri Mustafa.

The minister announced that in accordance with Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee resolutions, Cairo will import Jordanian glass in additional quantities, and will increase the amount of imported Jordanian marble, raising

the total import value of marble from \$500,000 to \$1 million. The minister has already passed instructions to the Nasr State Import and Export Company to make the necessary arrangements for the deals, Alawneh said.

He added that the Egyptian minister has approved of a rice deal under which Jordan will import 12,000 tonnes of Egyptian rice which will be coming to Jordan in a series of consignments. Alawneh also noted that the Egyptian government has given its consent to the Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national Jordanian airline to make its purchases from Egyptian markets with Egyptian currency.

Jordan, Sweden discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swedish-Jordanian cooperation in social related affairs and special education services provided for handicapped children were discussed at a meeting here Monday by a representative of the Swedish Agency for International Development and Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Sqour.

The agency official, Mr. Walter Lund is in Amman to make an assessment of a joint project in special education which was initiated jointly in 1986, and according to ministry officials, he will tour the site of the project and examine the possibility of expansion.

The joint project entails training Jordanian personnel in matters related to special education through series of training courses financed and supervised by the Swedish agency.

Sweden has been providing social services here also through the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief which runs a centre that offers services and training programmes to 150 mildly and severely mentally retarded children.

Cultural agreement with East Germany approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The council of ministers Monday approved of an executive programme for the implementation of a Jordanian-East German agreement, and delegated the Ministry of Planning's secretary general to sign it on the government's behalf.

The executive programme for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991 is designed to promote cultural, scientific, health, higher education, information and sports cooperation.

The council met under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi who also Monday issued a circular to all government ministries and de-

partments in Amman to report to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) about any damages to their water networks which could cause leakage and loss of water.

The circular said that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has reported that damages in water network systems within government buildings in the capital were causing considerable water losses, and said that damages should be immediately repaired in cooperation with WAJ. The circular said that regular checks on water network systems inside buildings should be carried out, and that departments would be responsible for footing the bill for repairing damages.

COURSE: Civil Defence Department Director in Zarqa Governorate Colonel Omar Dandis Monday opened the sixth civil defence course at Masoum secondary school for boys in Zarqa. A total of forty-two students and teachers are enrolled in this seven-day course during which they will take lessons on various activities and duties of the civil defence (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizkallah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Riham Ghassib entitled "Jordan in Spring" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "British Books on the Islamic World" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of scientific experiments and applications related to scientific subjects taught at the secondary schools, at Ma'ta University.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismael displaying paintings on Maqamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of posters on the French Revolution at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Polish contemporary art exhibition at the Yarmouk University.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play on the Palestinian uprising entitled "Al Bilad Talbat Ahlaha" at the Palace of Culture — 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Arabic children plays organised by Nour Al Hussein Foundation Centre at Aqaba (for more information call 606992).

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture entitled "Careers in Music" at the National Music Conservatory — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A German film entitled "Palermo oder Wolfsburg" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Monday visited the Mirza family to convey his condolences on the death of Wasfi Mirza (Petra).

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing a law amending scholarship regulations. The law states that the Ministry of Higher Education will be responsible for supervising the process of dispatching students on scholarships to universities in Jordan and abroad. The law also calls for the formation of a committee chaired by the minister of higher education to run matters related to scholarships (Petra).

HONOURING MOTHERS: Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the Ministry of Social Development Tuesday will hold a festival to honour surrogate mothers on the occasion of International Woman's Day. Presents will be donated to 30 mothers who are taking care of somebody else's children (Petra).

SENTENCED: The military court has sentenced Hosni Salem Mohammad Yassin to three years hard labour and the payment of JD 1,500 fine for trafficking hashish. The military governor endorsed the sentence (Petra).

ENDORSED: The council of ministers Monday endorsed the appointment of Mustafa Farhan Al Mawajdeh as mayor of Al Iraq in the Karak Governorate. Municipal elections in Al Iraq township were held in February (Petra).

LOAN: Municipal, Rural and Environment Affairs Minister Marwan Al Hmoud Monday approved a JD 10,000 loan presented by the Cities and Villages Development Bank to Al Qa' municipal council in Maan Governorate. The loan will be spent on opening and asphalted a number of roads in the village (Petra).

COURSE: A total of 19 workers in the field of water and sewerage Monday began a training course at the Water Authority in Amman. The three-day course is designed to raise their efficiency and standard of performance. This course is held by the Water Authority in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (Petra).

TENDERS: Municipal, Rural and Environment Affairs Minister Marwan Al Hmoud has approved the floating of tenders at JD 55,081 to open and asphalt roads in the villages of Battir, Kafr Yuba, and Sab' Sir (Petra).

DEVELOPMENT: Amman Governor Mohammad Al Amin Monday reviewed with members of industry and trade sectors at the Amman Development Council the current trend to give momentum to development process and to encourage the private sector into increasing production (Petra).

PREACHERS: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Monday embarked on a six month training course for mosque preachers in cooperation with the Institute of Public Administration (IPA). Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat said at the opening of the course that training courses aim at raising the standard of preachers to provide better services to the worshippers.

COMBATING PESTS: A meeting was held at Koura district in Irbid Governorate Monday to discuss arrangements for combatting desert locusts. The meeting attended by directors of concerned public and private organisations and heads of local councils and government offices. It was decided at the meeting that a series of lectures and seminars should be held to orient the public in the Irbid region about the dangers of locusts and means of combatting the insects.

Illiteracy conference opens Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — A sub-regional conference on the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab World is expected to open here Saturday with the participation of eight Arab states and representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

UNESCO officials in Jordan said that the meeting, which is being organised by UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, will discuss providing basic education to illiterates, the role of organisations providing such education, the concept of international education and proposed ideas promoting the campaign for the eradication of illiteracy through adult and literacy centres in the Arab World.

They said that the methods of teaching adults and illiterates and the nature of educational programmes which should be presented at the national, regional and international level and other related topics will be on the agenda.

The week-long conference will be attended by delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, North Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia and Palestine in addition to UNESCO.

from now until the year 2000.

Director of the ministry's projects and school buildings department Abdul Razzak Ma'ani said that 22 of the school buildings were financed by the treasury, and 14 through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The building of schools was decided on at the first national educational conference held in Jordan in 1987 which also decided on numerous measures to im-

prove the educational system.

Ma'ani said in a statement that the Ministry of Education has conducted a survey on its needs of schools to meet the country's requirements and found that at least 403 schools should be built by the year 1998 to house students who are constantly on the increase.

Ma'ani said that the construction of schools will be implemented in three stages:

The Italians are coming

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The first tourist group from Italy to visit Jordan is due here on March 23, and the Ministry of Tourism has made arrangements for the tourists to visit various archaeological sites and historical places in the Kingdom, according to a ministry statement issued here Monday.

The statement said that the 80 Italian tourists will be touring desert, urban and archaeological areas within a programme organised by the ministry in coopera-

tion with travel and tourist agencies in Jordan.

The statement said that the ministry will be working closely with a major Italian tourist company and tour operators in organising visits by Italian and European tourists to Jordan.

According to the statement, the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre has prepared special maps for the tourists to guide them on their desert safaris and other regions.



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COURSES

Introduction to COMPUTER SYSTEM / DOS, Basic, Fortran, Cobol Pascal, C language, DBASE III+ / IV / FOXPLUS, Lotus 123 Word Star, Autocad ENG, ...

ACCESSORIES

Diskettes, Filters, Disk storage Boxes, Computer Binders Dust covers, Books, Copy Holders, Computer Paper, Ribbons Music cards, Scanners, Joysticks, Mouses, Data switches, Math Co-Processors, VDT Glasses, Text light, ...

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Gardens Street - Kanaan Center - Beside Housing Bank, Tel. 683246
P.O. Box (950640) ص.ب. 950640
فاكس (683246) فاكس

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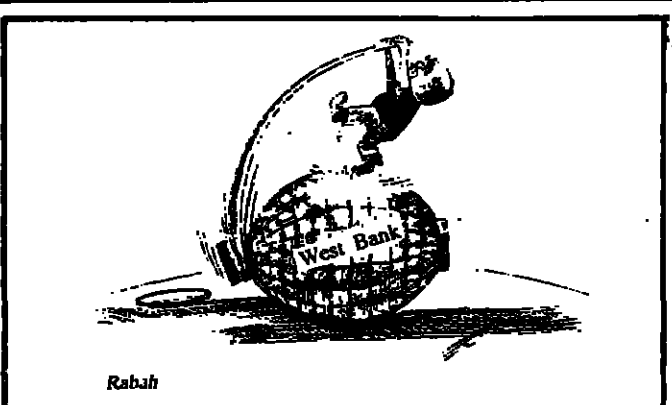
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No solution in handouts

THE WORLD Food Council's (WFC) latest report on the grave famine threat in the developing world should be a jolt to the international conscience, and prompt all concerned governments and people to wake up from slumber and adopt an immediate course of action to save millions of threatened lives. There must be a firm political commitment at the highest level to make the human condition and welfare the focus of the development process, because hunger is rooted in the bigger dilemma of poverty and underdevelopment plaguing these countries. That is why, according to the WFC report, limited-scope relief programmes are inadequate in seriously addressing the crisis. If anything, such programmes raise false hopes while the root causes of the problem remain unscathed. Pumping short instalments of relief only keeps the developing world forever underdeveloped, particularly that, more often than not, relief action is often initiated after the situation reaches deadly proportions.

Conspicuous by its sheer absence is a global strategy aimed at self-reliance in food for individual countries. Relief handouts should not be the answer; they would only be doses of morphine for already drugged patients. Food airlifts to hungry countries have failed to crush the famine threat that they face year after year. But it is definitely wrong to only blame developed countries because some stricken countries' governments and people exasperate the already serious situation. In countries such as Sudan, Ethiopia and Afghanistan, the main recipients of food aid, internal strife has blocked immediate assistance to the needy and has impeded urgently needed development. Civil wars and political feuds take their heaviest toll on funds that the governments and people can ill-afford.

The WFC report calls upon the developed nations to assist in terms of real development of these countries and not just with temporary handouts if only because the continuously hungry cannot think of development on an empty stomach. At the same time, the countries suffering from the throes of famine and those who are vulnerable to drought and other natural calamities should also realise that the major burden lies with them. It seems quite appropriate to quote the common adage, "don't expect anyone to help you if you don't help yourself." Famine is not always in the divine order of things but mostly a man-made disaster, therefore every human effort should be made to correct these mistakes because it really is a matter of life and death.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

In an editorial Monday Al Ra'i daily comments on Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens's visit to Washington which will mark the first official contact between the new U.S. administration and the Israeli government. The paper said that the visit coincides with a dialogue going on in the American capital now between PLO and Israeli parliament members and will be followed by a visit to the United States by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The paper said that all these contacts regardless of their immediate achievements are regarded as a positive development helping to activate the peace process. The talks in Washington can help put an end to Israel's extremism and can open the way for the long awaited Middle East peace conference, the paper noted. It said that the Middle East issue can no longer be kept on the shelf and added that the East-West detente as well as a world-wide support for the convening of the international conference are bound to help the cause of peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Riyadh and says it is being held at a time when Muslims are confronted by the Middle East question, Afghanistan, Lebanon and other issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic countries. Abdul Rahim Omar hopes that the foreign ministers in Riyadh will tackle all these issues and come out with solutions which can bring peace to the Islamic region. He says that the present East-West detente should prompt the Arabs and Muslims to double their efforts and seek help from all major nations to settle the regional conflicts for good. The writer also says that the ceasefire in the Gulf, the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan were two favourable developments but should be followed by other positive steps to end the bloodshed in Lebanon and Afghanistan and bring peace to the Arab and Muslim world.

Al Dustour daily tackled a statement by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delivered at the development council meeting in Ramtha Sunday. Prince Hassan's participation in the deliberations and the attention he drew to the importance of the local council's contributions to national development were clear signs of his deep concern over domestic issue and his hopes to see meaningful economic activity and more and closer cooperation among various authorities to attain higher performance and more production, the paper said. The paper also referred to the formation of the Unified Economic Council for which Prince Hassan voiced support and backing, and it said that such council was essential to coordinate and supervise matters related to the national economy.

Middle East role in future global energy scene

By HRH Crown Prince Hassan

The following is an address by Crown Prince Hassan to the Middle East Forum on energy held in Amman last month.

It is appropriate that the World Energy Conference would hold its first ever Regional Energy Forum in Amman, a central capital in the Arab World, and that this meeting be called the "Middle East Energy Forum." The Middle East, containing the vast majority of the World's crude oil reserves, played and will continue to play the major role in the international energy area.

Now, while looking towards the 1990's, it is appropriate that we start defining our priorities and issues in the energy field and the role that the Middle East will play in these.

I can define the most important future features of the global energy scene as follows:

— The growing importance and awareness of the environment in energy decisions.

— The new unity and pragmatism of OPEC.

— The resurgence in energy demand world-wide and particularly in developed countries.

— The limitations of technology in developing new global alternative energy sources.

— The growing proven oil reserves in the Middle East.

I would like to dwell briefly on these five main issues before moving into outlining their implications to our universe.

Public awareness of energy usage and their effect on the environment are probably going to be the major factors in energy investment decisions. The greenhouse effect, and its implications to our universe, has become a major socio-political issue which no responsible government can anymore ignore. It has been suggested that fossil fuels, mainly coal usage, accounts for half the increase in the greenhouse gases

in the atmosphere, mainly carbon dioxide, with its lasting effect on the future of our planet and the manipulation of its climate, while humans are in the test tube.

Although the dangers may be exaggerated, and our awareness and worries still lack scientific proof, yet the message is clear that no responsible government can afford to ignore the rapidly increasing public awareness caused by the rising amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The implications of this environmental awareness would definitely limit the role which the abundant global reserves of coal can play in future energy supplies.

Also of environmental concern is the possibility of leakages and radiations caused by weaknesses in standards and complacency in precautions at nuclear power plants, which may perhaps as well limit the future share of nuclear energy in the global energy mix.

Our awareness of the need for international cooperation regarding the environment has prompted us to organise a major international seminar on the environment to be held in Amman, in association with the Beijer Institute on the Environment and Energy in Sweden and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait, in which these major global issues would be discussed.

The second issue in the global energy scene is that of the growing unity and pragmatism in the OPEC ranks. I am not going to dwell on this topic knowing that it would be more amply dealt with by the keynote address of H.E. Mr. Issam Al Chalabi, but must say that this new spirit of OPEC, if I can call it so, helped to stabilise oil prices and allowed us to avoid the volatility which characterised the oil markets during the past years, and its damaging

effects on the producers and consumers alike.

The third major development, which we witnessed during the last few years, was the increasing demand for energy worldwide. The total energy demand, which did globally decrease by 0.4 per cent per year from 1979 to 1985, increased by as average of 2 per cent annually in the last three years. More significantly the oil demand of the OECD countries which decreased by 3.3 per cent per year for the entire period from 1974 to 1985, reversed this trend and increased by 2.1 per cent per year from 1986 to 1988. Most of this increase was supplied by OPEC countries.

This reversal of trends is very significant. In the international forum we held in 1986 on Energy and Arab Development, there was a school of thought which saw in 1979-1985 trend a dichotomy between global economic growth and energy demand. The events of the last three years reversed this trend and we are now seeing, once more, gearing between growth and energy usage. With the rampant world economic growth expected in the 1990's, particularly in Europe, 1992, the importance of availability and stability of energy supplies is going to confront us once more as one of the most important issues in our economic growth agenda.

Our globe is now witnessing economic growth which has never been experienced before. The world growth forecast of 2.8 per cent for 1988 had to be revised upward to 3.8 per cent, a rapid growth which our universe probably never experienced before. With this global growth, international trade increased at almost twice this rate, 6 per cent increase in real terms in 1988 over 1987; and accompanying this growth in

the international economy and trade, a similar, even larger, growth is taking place in the electrical and electronic fields, worldwide. All of this calls for increasing supplies of energy; the role of the Middle East in satisfying these growth strategies is obvious to all intelligent observers.

My fourth point is about the limitations of technology. For the last fifteen years, and since the rise of oil prices at the end of 1975, we witnessed a change in the contribution of the main components to the global energy mix, but more importantly, we saw no significant new entrants. In 1974 the world energy mix consisted mainly of crude oil, gas, coal, nuclear, and hydropower. In 1989, it is still the same oil, gas, coal, nuclear, and hydropower and will remain so for many decades to come.

The striking fact is that it takes fifty years for technology to develop a new source of energy of any significant global proportions. Well into the next century, we shall still have crude oil, gas, coal, nuclear, and hydropower as the global energy mix. The proportions in the mix may change, but changes will be only small and very slow. Coal usage will encounter major environmental problems and opposition, and its proportion in the mix may slightly decline; further nuclear energy usage is suffering, and will continue, to suffer, from public and political apprehension and the colossal investment requirements of nuclear facilities. Hydropower opportunities have been mainly utilised and new additions would be very limited and costly.

At the beginning of the next century oil and gas will remain the main components in the global energy mix with oil contributing almost one-third of the global

energy requirements and gas slightly less, but most likely doing better, than coal. Crude oil has been and will remain with us, probably for the next two decades, as the most important contributor to the global energy mix.

My fifth and last point is that of the growing estimates of proven crude oil reserves in the Middle East. At the beginning of 1989, the proven total world reserves of crude oil exceeded one thousand billion barrels. Of these more than 70 per cent, i.e. 700 billion barrels are in the Middle East. The announced proven reserves of Saudi Arabia alone has been dramatically increased during the last few weeks and are now in excess of 250 billion barrels, i.e. more than one-quarter of global reserves. Both Iraq and Kuwait were also recently capable of providing increasingly significant reserves and both countries have now declared proven reserves in excess of 100 billion barrels each.

While crude oil reserves in the OECD countries are quickly being depleted, the proven reserves of the Arab Middle East are dramatically increasing. Other than for the USSR, Mexico, and Venezuela, each of which can claim reserves slightly in excess of 50 billion barrels, there is practically no significant oil reserves left in the world other than those of the Middle East.

Crude oil, we all agree, is a depletable resource; but, let us remember the striking fact that the world's proven reserves, which stood at 650 billion barrels at the beginning of 1979, has dramatically increased to over 1000 billion barrels in 1989, in spite of huge consumption during the last ten years. This has been due to new dramatic discoveries in the Middle East mainly in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait.

Technology, research, and development are going to discover new oil and enhance the productivity of depleting wells, but this is going to be slow, limited, and very expensive. The only large, viable, and economic reserves of crude oil available to our universe are those of the Middle East.

The conclusions of my five global indicators are clear. Oil is and will, for many years to come, remain as the main source of energy for our universe; the vast majority of this oil lies in this part of the world.

The political and economic repercussions are both important and critical. For oil to continue to fuel the human development and world economy, it is essential that it should be fairly valued and with no further volatility in its pricing. The growing pragmatism of the OPEC as producers has to be matched with similar restraint and pragmatism in the non-OPEC oil exporting countries. Coordination between OPEC and non-OPEC producers is very useful, but as important is a dialogue between producers and consumers through an open international forum. Therefore, we support the recommendation of the World Commission on Environment and Development for promoting such a dialogue.

The other main conclusion is the need for peace and fairness in the Middle East. The Middle East is going to be the major source of energy to our universe for the coming few decades with no alternatives in sight; its importance as the world's major energy source, would, from the early 1990's, increase year after year. For the Middle East to play this crucial role, the need for peace and tranquillity in this very strategic part of our universe is imperative.

Bush moves to reassert his presidency after Tower rejection

By Michael Gelb
Reuters

WASHINGTON — George Bush is no stranger to defeat and this may be a major asset as he seeks to reassert his presidency after the Senate's rejection of his nomination of John Tower as Defence Secretary.

Beaten in two Senate elections, defeated by Ronald Reagan in the fight for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination and trounced in the first battle of the 1988 presidential contest, Bush's pattern after each setback was to roll up his sleeves and go back to work.

"I am an optimist, convinced that no matter how bad a situation might look, something good can come of it. It's ingrained, part of my nature," he wrote in his autobiography "looking forward."

Bush has moved quickly to get his presidency back on track from its first major blow, nominating respected Wyoming congressman Dick Cheney as Defence Secretary on Friday — just 24 hours after the Senate rejected Tower. He pledged to put aside hard feelings about the Democratic-controlled Senate's treatment of his original choice, saying: "That's over, that's history. And now we are going to move forward."

Stressing the need of his administration to co-operate with the Senate and House of Representatives on defence matters, he added: "There's no point in my dwelling on what happened."

Bush plans to return to the busy-leader image this week with speeches pushing his budget, environmental and education agendas.

Despite criticism of the Tower affair and charges that his administration is adrift after just seven weeks in power, Bush has maintained a relaxed and genial public stance which has filtered down to his staff.

"Most of us have been around Washington for a while. We know there's ebb and flow," one senior White House official said. "We have a lot of confidence in him and in ourselves."

In one sense, the end of the Tower imbroglio seems likely to improve morale at the White House by lifting the burden of a seemingly hopeless cause and enabling the administration to concentrate on other issues.

About the only man in Washington interested in continuing the row seems to be Vice President Dan Quayle who accused Senate Democrats of mudslinging in a bid to undermine the presidency and derail Tower. "Everyone understands that

this is not politics as usual — that this trial and conviction by rumour is a violation of standards of decency that hasn't been seen on the Senate floor since the days of 'tail-gunner Joe'." Quayle said, referring to the late Wisconsin Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy.

But the general tone in Washington now is an eagerness to forget the bloodletting, which left many Democrats feeling uneasy about the nature of their victory.

"This was the wrong fight for the Democrats," said Democratic political strategist Robert Beckel, who managed Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign. "No body can walk away from this and proudly say 'Look what I got' when the prize is a pound of human flesh."

"You gain strength from picking the right fight. This wasn't the right fight," Beckel said.

Democratic discomfort may provide Bush with some leverage in dealing with Congress as opposition politicians strive to show that partisan interests are not at the top of their agenda.

Reforms take Poland towards parliamentary democracy

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuters

WARSAW — Poland's Communist leaders have taken the first steps towards parliamentary democracy, inviting the opposition to parliament and agreeing to free elections for a new upper house.

After nearly 45 years of Communist rule since World War II, the extent of the measures announced on Thursday stunned even the Solidarity negotiators with whom they were agreed in weeks of hard bargaining on political reform.

"I never thought we would reach this stage," said Bronislaw Geremek, the banned trade union's top political negotiator at the five-week-old talks.

A new 98-member senate will be elected in June, becoming the first parliamentary body in the Soviet bloc in which the Communists and their allies have no built-in majority.

Its powers have not yet been agreed but it is expected to have a watchdog role and limited veto rights over the Sejm (lower house) on economic and social policy and human rights.

Creation of the senate will coincide with the opposition's entry into the Sejm. Under an

electoral pact between the Communists and Solidarity, which is to be re-legalised under the reforms, the opposition will have 35 per cent of the 460 seats.

The two houses will jointly elect a French-style executive president — expected to be general Wojciech Jaruzelski, Polish leader since 1981 — but their significance may be far greater.

"There's no doubt that this is a transitional arrangement and the next Sejm elections will be 80 per cent free," said Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, a Sejm deputy for the Peasant Party which is allied to the Communists.

"It's obvious that if nothing dramatic happens on the way in the next four years we'll be on the way to full parliamentary democracy in the following elections," he said.

"The Communists will have to start preparing themselves for quite a new situation."

Western diplomats in Warsaw also say the new institutions, particularly the senate, herald a move towards democracy and put Poland in the forefront of reform in East Europe.

"I think the Poles have definitely gone further than Hungary, both in their way of dealing with issues by consensus and in specific solutions like free elec-

tions," one envoy said.

But diplomats doubt that Poland's Communist leaders are deliberately aiming to establish parliamentary democracy, even if some leaders privately say free elections are inevitable eventually and the party should get ready to contest them.

The Communists are split, confused and being forced by fear of economic catastrophe and popular unrest to make concessions to Solidarity to win backing for reforms, diplomats say.

"My impression is that the party leadership does not have a clear vision of where it is heading," said a European diplomat. "They are going step-by-step, negotiating week-by-week, so it's very difficult to say they are heading for democracy."

"There are very considerable forces in the leadership hoping that this new arrangement will stabilise the party's hold on power," he added.

But internal party opposition to the measures and reports of a split raise questions about the fate of the reforms.

Provincial Communist Party secretaries this week voted against a freely-elected senate. The politburo is expected to summon the policy-making central committee next week to vote on



the reform package agreed with the opposition.

But there are doubts that even this will galvanise a deeply demoralised nation to rally behind government-opposition reforms, revive the economy and avert unrest.

"I don't think these changes will have much impact," Kozakiewicz said. "Most of society is only interested in the economic situation."

"If the economy deteriorates further this year, which is possible, then the influence of these reforms on the country will be weaker and weaker."

A Western diplomat agreed. "The economy is the biggest threat," he said. "It's a sword of Damocles hanging over everyone."

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Paying homage to a great Arab composer

By Nelly Lama

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 14th of March marks the 5th anniversary of the death of the renowned organist, composer and music professor Salvador Armita. The name might sound familiar to all those who attended the American University of Beirut — AUB since 1949. They often had the occasion of hearing him play the organ or conduct a choir or an orchestra at the Assembly Hall.

Prior to 1949 Armita was working hard preparing for his career in music. He started to play the piano and organ at a very early age. Tutored by the great master of the organ, Augustus Lama, he became assistant organist in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, his hometown, when he was only thirteen. Five years later he moved to Alexandria in Egypt where he became organist and choirmaster at St. Catherine's cathedral. It was in 1934 that he finally had the opportunity to go to Italy for official academic training, to study piano and composition at the Academia Santa Cecilia in Rome with Alfredo Casella and to study the organ with Fernando Germani. He was awarded the L.A.S.C. degree in Rome in 1935. His increasing

interest in choral and orchestral music led him to study at the Guildhall School of Music with Sir Landon Ronald. In 1936 he graduated with distinction and was awarded the L.G.S.M. degree. Having finished his studies, Armita returned to Jerusalem where he was appointed Music Director of Jerusalem YMCA, a position which he retained until 1948. It is imperative to mention here that the organ there was the largest in the Middle East, 3600 pipes, and it had a carillon tower. The hymns Armita played on the carillon could be heard all over Jerusalem.

In 1949 he joined the AUB as organist, lecturer and choir director. He re-organised and enlarged the choir by opening it to community members and assembled an orchestra of professional musicians. This enabled him to undertake more elaborate works to be performed at Christmas and Easter, presenting works such as "The Messiah," "Creation" and other oratorios. He also produced operettas such as Menotti's "Almohade" and the Night Visitors' "Waltz Dream" by Oscar Strauss, etc.

In spite of his busy schedule, Professor Armita did not neglect his interest in orchestral music and composition. Throughout his

life he composed 200 pieces: Three symphonies, four concertos (for piano, organ, flute and viola), two suites, three piano trios, a few string quartets, several oriental dances, solo works for piano, organ, violin, violoncello, oboe and string orchestra. He also composed an Arab cantata known as Cantata Dramatica or "Identity Card" written for a full symphony orchestra, with a choir of 74. It is based on the poem of Mahmoud Darwish "Sajjel ana Arabi" (Write down, I am an Arab).

Armita's own explanation of this masterpiece runs as follows: "The Cantata is composed in the classical tradition. It has two main themes. The first is based upon two diminished intervals and the second relies on contrapuntal development. The first theme appears seventeen times, augmented in time values, ornamented and inverted throughout the orchestra and the voices. The second theme appears first as a fugal exposition and is followed by a canonic section in two parts for male and female voices. The middle section makes use of three folk songs. The Ice Cream Vendor, The Coffee maker, The Man with the plaided hair. The final section is preceded by Taqsim, an oriental

improvisation, played on the Ka-noon. The music then moves towards a triumphal climax of soloist, choir and orchestra." This Cantata was first performed under his direction in Cairo on July 17, 1970, at Sayyed Darwish Hall, with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra and the Choir of the Opera House. Another cantata was based on Said Akl's poem "The throne of Lebanon."

European tours

Salvador Armita made several European tours performing as organ virtuoso with the BBC in the promenade concerts under the direction of Sir Henry Wood, 1939, with the Paris P.T.T. orchestra under the direction of Henry Tomasi and with the Rome Symphony Orchestra under Bernardino Molinari. He also played at the Salle du Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels for the late King Leopold of Belgium and was awarded the Legion d'Honneur. He won the Premier Prix de Rome on an improvised theme submitted to an international jury. He has conducted several concerts in Italy, Hungary, France, England, USA, Egypt and Jordan.

Throughout his life he worked conscientiously and with utter devotion to his music, following the



Salvador Armita

French motto "Bien ou Rien." Working by his side, since 1947, was his wife, Yusra Jawharieh, a musicologist in her own right, who taught music at the AUB for 12 years and wrote the book "Popular Arts in Palestine." Mrs. Armita is well-known in Jordan for her intrinsic role in establishing the Jordan National Conservatory of Music in which she stresses the revival and formal study of the various Arabic instruments. After her return from Harvard University where

she carried out a research into the orchestration of Arabic music, she led Salvador to share her love for Arabic music. He then sought to integrate old modal forms of it into Western compositions. He introduced quarter tones and Arabic instruments into his symphonic compositions, and always tried to find the Arabic instruments best suited to perform with a Western-style orchestra. (He did introduce a folk drummer who played a solo, Arabic style). Together with Yusra, he wrote

two books for school children "Shadi and Shadia" named after their own two children. One of the books was a teacher's guide, the other, music for songs.

In an interview with "The Arab Week" magazine in 1981, Armita spoke with pain of a composer's constant need for backing, for financial aid and of the futility of decorating a composer after his death. Many a great Arab composer bears the same pain today; yet how much more painful is their plight since they might not

have behind them a woman as devoted, appreciative and courageous as Yusra Armita, who would work hard to document, record and continue a life's achievement. Yusra bears tribute to her husband's work in her lectures which she illustrates with his compositions. She plays his pieces for children with her young students. Hearing her join a child in a "Quatre Main" composed by him, one cannot but exclaim in awe. "Salvador is still alive in his music."

Growing old in the land of the rising sun

A majority of Japan's elderly people still live with their children. By the year 1995, the elderly will exceed 25 per cent of Japan's population. Already "the elder is caring for the elderly" but that is a fact of life rather than a long-term solution.

By Robert L. Anders and Masako Kanai-Pak

GENEVA, Switzerland — In common with many other countries, Japan is experiencing a significant increase in its ageing population. Some 10.2 per cent of its 120 million citizens are over the age 65 and, by 1995, the total

will exceed 25 per cent. This increase may be even higher because Japanese life expectancy is already the longest in the world. A majority of elderly people still live with their children. Over 80 per cent of the population

expect their children to care for them when they are elderly, a living arrangement that is very common in East Asian countries.

In 1980, the number of elderly who were bedridden was estimated to be 438,000. Out of this number, their children cared for 307,000 and 131,000 were confined to hospital beds. About 88,000 older persons were living in nursing homes, and a total of 219,000 were living in other kinds of institution.

Even though the elderly express a desire to live at home, it

appears that slightly less than 50 per cent are in institutions. Apparently when the level of care required by the elderly increases, the number of families able to provide such care decreases.

In Tokyo, where the population is approaching 18 million, one of the major problems is having a home or apartment large enough to accommodate both the elderly parents and the other family members. Housing is already a critical issue because of the limited availability of land. With the increase in the ageing population, it is going to be almost impossible for most families to afford homes large enough for both them and their parents.

As women gain additional education, the size of their family decreases. Since 1950, the number of children per family has dramatically decreased. The higher education and economic level for both men and women means that, in the long run, the elderly will have to look more and more to the community for their care.

In fact, the number of elderly living with their children, particularly in the big cities, is already beginning to decrease. This trend is also occurring in the countryside, where a greater percentage (more than 12 per cent) of the population are aged over 65. The children of these elderly people have moved to the cities in order to secure jobs, and this leaves the parents with fewer options avail-

able when they become unable to care for themselves.

In Japan, as in other developed nations, the tendency towards the "old caring the older" is also occurring. It is quite common to find the eldest son and/or his wife, who may be in their early seventies, caring for a parents in their late eighties or early nineties. This trend of the elder caring for the elderly seems to have only just begun.

Understandably, therefore, caring for the elderly is becoming a major concern for the citizens of Japan. Since a significant number of the elderly are currently in need of life care (home health, retirement centres, nursing homes), and an even greater number will require these facilities in the future, certain significant changes need to occur.

At present, in view of the near absence of long-term care beds, those elderly patients who need what in the United States is considered a skilled nursing facility are kept in the acute care hospitals. According to some authorities, 31.2 per cent of the patients in hospital are over the age of 70, and their average length of stay is over 105.1 days. For hospitals in general, the average length of stay is 54.6 days.

Japan's current national health insurance programme does not provide coverage for home health care, but the government has a home care demonstration project operating in seven different cities. They are trying to deter-

mine if home health care will be effective in reducing the number of hospital days for the elderly.

Assuming the programme proves to be successful, the cost of the services, or at least some of the cost, could be included under the national health insurance. The use of home health services has the potential to play a vital role in upgrading the care given to the home-bound elderly.

Since 1979, Japan has been experimenting with providing day care for selected elderly people. By 1983, they had 81 centres located throughout Japan designed to remote independent living skills for the elderly, and also to provide the family caretaker with a break from providing the daily care. Obviously, the number of these centres will have to increase considerably if this service is to have any positive impact on the care of Japan's senior citizens.

The number of nursing home beds will also need to increase in the not-too-distant future. In 1984, it was estimated that there were only 70,000 nursing home beds in the entire nation. More than 100 nursing homes have been opening each year but, because of the increasing number of frail elderly, the shortage has not been significantly reduced. Most facilities still have long waiting lists.

The ministry of health has included in its goals the development of intermediate care facilities to look after impaired elder-

ly. These should relieve the hospitals from the task of providing long term care for elderly patients, most of whom at present have no other option but to remain in hospital.

But what options does the ministry of health have to ensure that health care for the elderly is comprehensive? The possibilities include:

Care homes, individually owned homes which provide the frail elderly with a place to live as well as basic home-maker services. They would also benefit individuals who have no family to support them.

Respite care, enabling the family to bring their bedridden elderly into a nursing home setting for a short period of time. The short stay would offer the caregiver a break from providing daily care and support, and enable the caretaker family to take occasional vacations without worrying about the old person's welfare.

Day health care programmes to provide skilled nursing care for the elderly in day-care setting. In the evenings and on weekends, the patient would return home to the family. With this approach, the patient would not need to live in a nursing home but could receive the necessary skilled care.

Geriatric assessment centres, probably based in hospitals, would evaluate each patient's problems so as to identify where conditions needed improvement and to make treatment simpler, thus helping the individual to

function better at home.

Nursing homes, not based on a medical model but designed around a social system model of care. The emphasis would be on social interactions, patient well-being and adaptation to the ageing process, with the quality of life as the primary focus.

Home health services need to be greatly expanded. Every effort has to be made to keep the patient in the community and out of the hospital or nursing home. With the proper blend of nursing care, medical support and home-maker services, the quality of care in the home should markedly improve.

Health care professionals medical and nursing education will need to include "state of the art" for the elderly in the curriculum. National health insurance would provide incentives for these health care providers to care for the elderly. Again, the entire health insurance package would emphasise keeping the patient out of the hospital system and focus on community-based ambulatory and home health care programmes.

The issue of ageing is a pressing one. Tremendous progress will have to be made over the next ten years if Japan is to avoid a crisis in providing for its senior citizens. As one of the strongest economic powers in the world, this nation of 120 million citizens will undoubtedly find means to provide care for its elders — Academic File.



A small boy makes music for his grandfather. Sharing the company of children helps to keep old folk "young at heart."

Fulfilling a dream

By Lai Kwok Kin
Reuter

BATU GAJAH, Malaysia — An unfinished castle, the dream of a long-dead Scottish planter, has stood forgotten for decades deep in the Malaysian jungle.

William Kellie Smith sought to bring a touch of highland grandeur to the tropics.

Kellie's castle — or "Kellie's folly" — was intended as a grand setting for the social elite among the area's colonial planters and administrators.

The castle, with crenellated walls and a square tower rising four floors, was begun in 1915 in the northern state of Perak.

Work on it halted with Kellie's death in 1926 and, with World War II and Malayan independence in 1957 bringing British colonial life to an end, the mansion disappeared from memory.

Now tourism officials are eager to turn the castle into a major attraction.

Weeds and tree roots sprout from cracks in the stately columns and balustrades, cobwebs cover the arches and stairways leading to a dank and empty wine cellar. Plaster peels from walls, some embellished with Greco-Roman designs and measuring up to 0.6 metres thick.

Built on a ridge next to a 10-metre wide river which serves as a natural moat, the castle can be reached only by a bumpy drive

along muddy tracks through a rubber and oil palm plantation. Lost or destroyed records had for years prevented officials from finding out who Kellie was, why he built the mansion and why it was never finished.

Painstaking research by Englishman Mubin Sheppard, a former museum director, has unravelled some of the mystery surrounding Kellie and his dream.

Born in Dallas in Northeastern Scotland in 1870, the adventurous Kellie sailed to Malaya as a young man and came to own a large rubber plantation he called Kellas estate.

He prospered and in 1909 built his first house, which became the hub of social life for expatriates in Perak.

Shortly after his wife Agnes gave birth to their first son in 1915, he embarked on the second mansion with masons and craftsmen imported from Madras in southern India.

A mysterious illness killed many of the workers. Smith tried to appease the Gods and the Indian community by transferring the workers to build a Hindu temple nearby.

As a tribute to his generosity, a statue of a Pukka-looking colonial in pith helmet and khaki bush jacket still stands among the figures of Indian deities adorning the temple roof.

Work resumed after the temple was completed, only to stop again

when Smith died of pneumonia on a visit to Europe. Agnes sold the estate and the half-complete castle surrendered itself to the jungle.

"My dream is to turn it into a sort of museum, filled with old artefacts that once belonged to Kellie," said Robin Arumugam of the Perak tourism association, a private body.

Arumugam led a team which recently concluded a study on how to restore the castle to its original state before opening it to tourists.

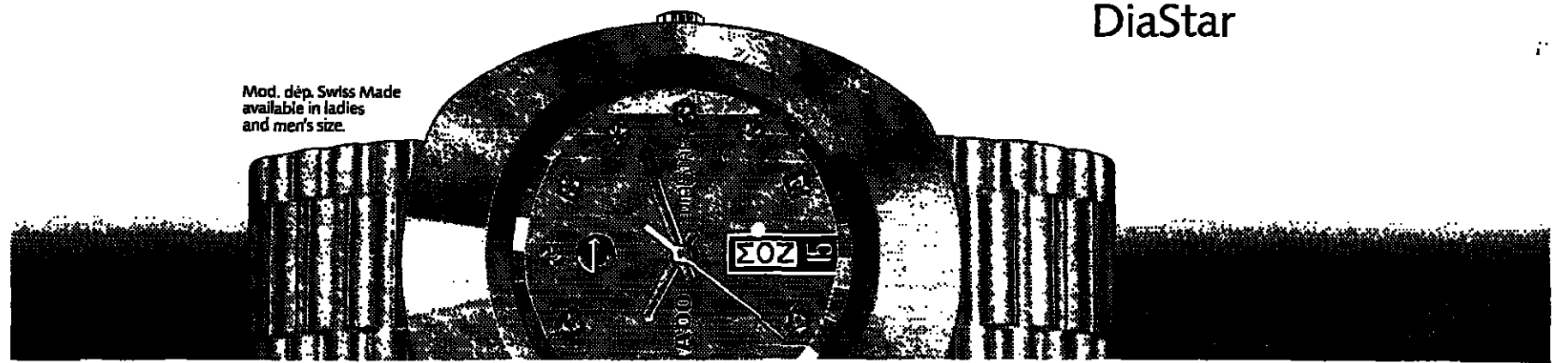
They want the government to declare the castle a national monument and provide \$55,000 to buy the surrounding land and pay for renovations.

"We want to fulfill Kellie's dream," Arumugam said.

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U.S. government repeats pledge to stay out of Eastern strike

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of people who took advantage of Eastern Airlines' \$12 tickets for the New York, Washington and Boston shuttle were stranded early Monday in three cities as the strike-crippled carrier expanded flights to Latin America.

The administration of President George Bush, meanwhile, reiterated its determination to stay out of the 10-day-old strike by Eastern's 8,500-member machinists union.

"We are not in the business of running Eastern Airlines or negotiating the contract for labour," U.S. Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner said on CBS Television's "Face the Nation." Eastern trumpeted the reopening of flights to seven Latin American cities Sunday as a new start for the troubled airline, which filed for bankruptcy protection last week after most of its 3,600 pilots honoured picket lines.

The carrier launched 75 flights Sunday and hopes to boost that number to 140 a day by the end of the week, compared with a pre-strike schedule of 1,040 a day, spokesman Robin Matell said. Eastern's three-day offer of

bargain fares on the Washington-New York-Boston shuttle attracted 8,000 passengers Friday, 11,000 Saturday and 12,500 Sunday, said John Siefert, vice president for the shuttle.

About 250 passengers were stuck at New York's Lagoon Airport late Sunday. 200 failed to get on flights from Boston's Logan International Airport and at least 100 were turned away at Washington's National Airport. Debbie McLoughlin of New York planned to spend the night at the Logan terminal.

"It's got to be an adventure," McLoughlin said. Most of those left at Lagoon were promised a seat on an Eastern flight Monday morning or flew on Pan Am's rival shuttle, said port authority police Lt. Alexander Harvey.

"When Eastern said 'that's it,' these people went over to Pan Am," said Harvey, whose agency

runs the airport. Pan Am added a flight to Washington and chartered two buses to Boston, he said.

David Hess, a spokesman at Washington's National Airport, said some passengers waited five hours for seats. About 40 were spending the night at the airport. Eastern maintained that passengers knew what they were getting into when they bought the cheap tickets.

"Those people were not stranded. We advertised the flights were on a first-come, first-served basis," Matell said. "I'm sorry they have to wait for the next flight, but they should have gotten there earlier."

One pilot on a picket line at Logan said he held no animosity toward shuttle passengers, but he questioned Eastern's strategy in slashing fares.

"They're trying to warm the house by burning the furniture to keep people coming," said pilot Dennis Caldwell.

Eastern's unions have accused Frank Lorenzo, chairman of Eastern parent Texas Air Corp., of trying to cannibalise the airline. Pilots and flight attendants have honoured machinists' picket

lines, which went up when the union refused to grant \$125 million in concessions to the airline.

The airline claims it is losing \$4 million a day, but Lorenzo was quoted in Monday's Wall Street Journal as predicting the airline would come out of bankruptcy proceedings with its Atlanta, Georgia, hub and its operations from the north east to Florida and Latin America intact.

"I can't imagine that Eastern isn't going to be a major (airline) and very similar to what it is today," he said.

Planes departed Sunday with "relatively light" passenger loads from Miami for Bogota, Colombia; Guatemala City; Lima, Peru; Panama City; Quito, Ecuador; Guayaquil, Ecuador; and San Jose, Costa Rica. Matell said. Thrice-weekly flights were to resume this week to Asuncion, Paraguay; Cali, Colombia; and La Paz, Bolivia.

Eastern also intended to resume thrice-daily flights between Miami and Puerto Rico Monday along with service to Montreal, then add direct jet flights later this week between Washington and Boston.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iraq, Egypt sign transport pact

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq and Egypt signed documents Sunday for implementing an overland and a sea transport agreement that will set up a passenger bus service between the two countries and speed up port procedures, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. Transport Minister Mohammad Hamza and Ambassador Ibrahim Ouf signed for Iraq and Egypt respectively, the agency said. The overland agreement calls for operating a direct bus service from Iraq to Cairo, and facilitating shipments of goods. The sea transport accord will speed up customs procedures and offer shared health, technical and administrative facilities for merchant shipping at ports in both countries, INA said. Hamza was quoted as saying the two accords would boost economic cooperation in accordance with the aims of the newly established Arab Cooperation Council. The council, proclaimed in Baghdad last month, links Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen in a four-nation grouping designed to strengthen economic ties.

Protecting Canada's living standards

OTTAWA (CBC) — High interest rates are the only way to protect long-term living standards for poor and middle-income Canadians, said the chairman of Canada's second largest bank. "A little bit of shorter-term pain is going to lead to a better life for middle-income and poorer people down the road," Donald Fullerton, chairman of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, told a business group Thursday. "We must accept the simple truth that sound financial management which cuts inflation is the only way to protect and improve their standards of living." If the country pursued an "easy-credit" low-interest policy, consumers would keep spending, the Canadian dollar would drop in value on world markets, foreign-grown food would cost more and inflation would climb, he said.

EC finance ministers discuss fraud

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community finance ministers met Monday to discuss how to fight massive fraud against the EC budget and prepare for international monetary meetings in Washington next month. An all-party committee of Britain's House of Lords estimated in a report published Friday that fraud was costing the EC up to \$6 billion (\$10.3 billion) a year. That is more than a fifth of this year's \$50 billion budget. Experts blame much of the problem on lax controls by the 12 EC governments, who are responsible for checking Community subsidies to agricultural exporters in their countries. Most of the fraud perpetrated is in the farm sector. The ministers, holding a regular monthly meeting in Brussels, are likely to discuss major new U.S. proposals for tackling Third World debt as part of preparations for the spring gatherings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in early April. The U.S. plan envisages using World Bank and IMF funding to reduce significantly the core debt burden of Third World nations. It has been welcomed by major Latin American countries, Japan and France, while a British treasury spokesman said it was interesting but needed very careful study.

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Estikial Book Shop-Sweifieh, and The National Music Conservatory.

Danish fur business faces hard times

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — In Denmark, the world's top mink breeder, pelts are selling at below break-even levels this season, and more than just prices are depressed.

Overproduction, warm weather and a long campaign by animal-rights activists have pushed many of Denmark's 5,000 fur farms to the brink of bankruptcy.

"The stock market crash (in October 1987) started it," said Scott Novak, who represents a New York dealer in exclusive garments who was here for an international auction. "That seemed to end that beautiful run we had for a few years."

It's too early to look for bargains in buying a mink coat off the rack. Sewing the furs into garments is skilled work, and labour costs — like retailers' markups — are high.

Danish breeders produce 35 per cent of all mink furs sold in the West. Last year, they sold 12.4 million mink pelts, up from

9.1 million in 1986. But falling prices reduced income from \$394 million to \$282 million.

It's hard to determine the damage done by the anti-fur campaigners, who have been known to spray paint the fur coats of unsuspecting women in the street.

"Certainly they hurt us," said Lester Taffet, a 59-year veteran of the trade. "They murdered us in Germany and other places."

The protests began in the 1960s to save wild animals from trappers, but the scope later widened to include animals bred for their fur.

The London-based International Fur Trade Federation has launched a counter-campaign to promote the fur industry in brochures and films.

A global fraternity of fur buyers assembled last month near Copenhagen to bid for raw materials that will become the luxurious apparel in the shops this autumn. The Danish auction house offers the world's largest collection of mink pelts.

Minks were fetching \$15 to \$34 per pelt. Two seasons ago, amid surging garment sales, the same types of skins brought up to 45 per cent more. Meanwhile, mink production has set records.

"This year we'll be grading more than 15 million pelts, four times that of the next largest fur centre," Peter Krag, president of Danish fur sales, said in an interview.

Pelts are graded according to sex, size, colour, clarity and quality, creating hundreds of categories. They range from "scrub brushes" to perfect specimens with the proper mix of guard hairs and underwool for insulation which, like silk, ensures a near-constant temperature for the wearer.

The fur business has grown in the last 15 years from small handcraft shops to a mass-production industry. The Far East supplies an estimated 40 per cent of finished goods.

Danish fur farming began in the 1920s with wild mink im-

ported from North America and fed on the abundance of fish caught in Danish waters.

After World War II, mink production rose steadily, and Denmark rose to become the world leader. Production has tripled since 1980, but the glut is threatening many breeders.

Two consecutive warm winters have added to furriers' woes. Everyone in the trade is praying for an extended late-winter cold snap to stimulate demand for fur clothing.

"Hong Kong and other large consumers of raw pelts have thus far been purchasing conservatively, protecting themselves against a further drop in prices," said William Frick, who represents a major Hong Kong company.

"Eventually, then the market gains confidence and orders are placed, we'll see a turnover of garments we've never seen before. Low prices today will benefit tomorrow's consumer," he said.

Soviets convert 40 per cent of arms industry to produce consumer goods

MOSCOW (R) — Forty per cent of the Soviet arms industry has been converted to civilian production as the country cuts its defence spending, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has said.

In a meeting with women journalists at the Kremlin, Ryzhkov also said the Soviet military budget would be published within 12 to 18 months, as soon as a price reform was completed.

Ryzhkov did not disclose how many Soviet arms factories existed before the conversion to civilian goods began or the rouble

value of their previous production.

But he said the Soviet Union hoped to convert 60 per cent of the arms industry to consumer goods production by 1995.

"We are thinking of reaching a quota of 50 per cent for this (consumer goods) sector in 1991 and reversing the current percentages by 1995," he said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced in January that military spending will be reduced by 14.2 per cent of its present secret figure and the pro-

duction of arms and military technology by 19.5 per cent.

Gorbachev said the steps were needed to bolster an ailing domestic economy which is desperately short of consumer goods.

Ryzhkov's promise that the size of the military budget would be disclosed was similar to pledges by other Soviet officials.

A foreign ministry spokesman said last August that details of the defence budget would be made public within two years. In December, Foreign Minister Eduard

Shevardnadze suggested that disclosures should be made more quickly.

According to figures in the Soviet budget, defence spending has been fixed at 20.2 billion roubles (\$33.1 billion) for the past three years.

But Soviet officials acknowledge that this does not include the cost of military production by the civilian sector. Western estimates say the real figure is in excess of 70 billion roubles (\$115 billion).

Moscow party to tackle critical food shortages

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party will tackle critical food shortages in a special meeting this week that comes amid signs President Mikhail Gorbachev and politburo rival Yegor Ligachev disagree on the solution.

The hottest issue on the agenda of the 300-member Central Committee is Gorbachev's desire to lease state-owned fields to farmers.

In recent appearances, Ligachev has skipped lightly over leasing and emphasised collective farming, the traditional system that has left Soviet consumers standing in line for meat and vegetables.

At the meeting Wednesday and Thursday, the policy-making Central Committee is likely to agree on the need to ease the poverty and isolation of rural life. It also is expected to order the dismantling, at least partially, of an agricultural superministry formed in 1985.

In what appeared to be part of a campaign leading to action against the superministry, the Communist Party daily Pravda on March 6 reprinted citizens' complaints the agency is bureaucratic, ineffective and useless.

The Central Committee will also formally elect the 100 Communist Party members nominated for the nation's new 2,250-member Congress of People's Deputies.

But the meeting's major task is to overcome divisions at the highest levels and to take bold action on the worsening shortages that could derail Gorbachev's entire reform programme.

The "food problem," as it is known in the Soviet Union, means:

— Long lines for limited products of poor quality.

— A distribution system that lets three out of four potatoes rot before they reach the table.

— A grain harvest of 195 million tonnes in 1988 — well below targets — that required the Soviet

Union to spend precious foreign currency to import 36 million tonnes.

— Migration to the cities to escape the inadequacies of rural education, housing, roads, goods and services.

"Today, comrades, the most critical question is, unconditionally, supplying the population, normalisation of the demands of the market," Gorbachev said in a speech in Kiev last month.

"Of all the problems of supplies to the population, the most urgent is food," he said.

Gorbachev has enthusiastically endorsed the idea of allowing families to obtain land under long-term leases from the collective and state farms. He says it will give farmers greater security and incentive.

In an effort to boost the idea, official newspapers abound with reports like the following, published in Moscow News:

Nikolai Sysolyatin took a lease from a state farm in the Kirov region and began raising 110 steers. "With the help of wives and children, the team mowed grass at night, the best time for that. In contrast, 50 per cent of the fodder at the state farm rotted," it said.

But Sysolyatin was driven out of business by suspicious neighbours, because the bloody experience of collectivisation in the 1930s made peasants distrustful of individual initiative, Moscow News said. Sysolyatin left 30 steers bellowing with hunger when he moved to the city.

Gorbachev insisted to his Kiev audience that ideology is less important than results.

"We must open the door to anyone who is capable of radically changing the situation," he said. "No stereotypes and dogmas must stand in the way of deciding the food problem."

In January, Gorbachev complained that bureaucrats and neighbours who drove the likes of Sysolyatin out of business viewed them as "Rockefellers" seeking

to get rich at the expense of others.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda Monday published a transcript of a roundtable discussion of agricultural specialists headlined "there is a choice," saying leasing is not the only option to improve the country's food supply.

An introductory letter noted that one-fifth of Russia's farms were leased as of the beginning of the year but that shelves are still

bare.

Several roundtable participants said true leasing doesn't exist yet and they advised caution against rushing into leasing before it's fully studied. The participants agreed that farmers should somehow be made masters of the land and be given greater independence from bureaucrats and managers.

Ligachev's recent statements praising collective farming stand out in stark contrast.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, March 13, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	85.0	85.8
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	414.2	418.4
Deutsche mark	922.9	931.6	Dutch guilder	235.6	237.8
Swiss franc	288.4	291.1	Swedish crown	84.4	85.1
	337.5	340.8	Italian lira (for 100)	39.3	39.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	137.7	138.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7200/10	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1970/80	Canadian dollar
	1.8635/42	Deutsche marks
	2.1025/35	Dutch guilders
	1.5913/23	Swiss francs
	39.02/05	Belgian francs
	6.3130/80	French francs
	136.7/1368	Italian lire
	129.80/90	Japanese yen
	6.3710/60	Swedish crowns
	6.7810/60	Norwegian crowns
	7.2600/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	392.50/393.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Selected buying in gold and retail stocks pushed the Australian share market slightly higher this afternoon on paper-thin volumes. The All Ordinaries Index rose 1.3 to 1,490.1.

TOKYO — Share prices closed down due to a resurgence of worry about world inflation and concerns that local interest rates may be headed higher. The Nikkei fell 148.82 to 31,552.96.

HONG KONG — In the absence of corporate news or juicy rumours, the market closed lower on interest rate worries and concern about a rash of placements and rights issues in the offing. The Hang Seng Index fell 16.92 to 3,029.89.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mostly higher after a day of fairly active trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 5.52 to 1,160.38.

BOMBAY — Share prices buckled under heavy selling on reports that a Calcutta broker was facing financial difficulties. Associated Cement fell 9.5 rupees to 296.5.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed mixed with a lower bias, but dealers said they were relieved the reaction to local elections Sunday had not been worse. The Dax Index closed 4.96 points lower at 1,313.55.

ZURICH — Prices ended a quiet session slightly easier as uncertainty about interest rates weighed on the market. The Swiss Index fell three to 983.7.

PARIS — Prices extended opening losses in nervous trading around mid-session, pressured by renewed fears of higher global interest rates.

LONDON — Shares were trading at their highs on the day in afternoon business, responding to a sharp rise on Wall Street. At 1559 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 14.5 to Sunday's peak of 2,099.7.

NEW YORK — Stocks were sharply higher in mid-morning over a broad range, amid waves of futures-related buy programmes and some hope for a favourable trade gap figure Wednesday. The Dow was up 28 at 2,310.

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Peking extends olive branch to Tibet leader

PEKING (R) — China made a conciliatory offer to Tibet Monday, one week after crushing anti-Chinese protests there, saying it would welcome talks with the exiled Buddhist spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

In the regional capital, Lhasa, residents contacted by telephone said they had been told by officials that martial law, imposed last Tuesday night, could be lifted soon.

"Nothing has been announced but we have learned that martial law could end after a few days," one resident said.

Troops were still patrolling the streets and manning roadblocks. Arrests were being made at night but the city was quiet and shops were reopening, Tibetans said.

China says 16 people were killed last week in three days of pro-independence demonstrations and anti-Chinese rioting but Tibetans say police, shooting at random, killed many more.

A spokesman for the Tibetan regional government in Peking

said it had not been decided when martial law would be lifted.

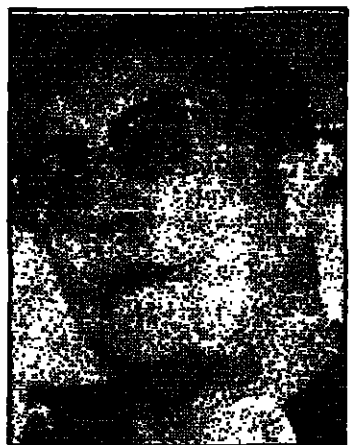
He confirmed a report in the official Peking Review Monday that China still wanted to hold talks with the Dalai Lama, 53, who fled to India in 1959 after an abortive uprising in the Himalayan region against Chinese rule.

"If the Dalai Lama is willing to hold talks, we welcome it," he said. "As long as he is sincere," he added.

The Dalai Lama — who has never returned to China and is revered as a God-like figure in Tibet — is seen by Western observers as the key figure in making peace in the region.

The Peking Review said China was willing and ready to talk to the Dalai Lama but stood by its position that independence for Tibet could not be discussed and that members of the Tibetan government-in-exile be excluded from the talks.

China says it has ruled Tibet since the 13th century and that independence will never be given



Dalai Lama

to the region's two million people.

"However, as many observers see it, there is still a gap to cover between the Dalai Lama and the central government before the negotiations, which are sure to take place someday, can begin," the weekly magazine cautioned.

Western diplomats said China was extending an olive branch in an attempt to defuse tension in Lhasa where residents say more protests are still possible despite the presence of thousands of troops enforcing martial law.

After a three-week delay caused by technical troubles and a nearly two-hour wait for fog to lift, Discovery thundered from its sea-side launch pad atop a mountain of smoke and flame and soared into a cloudless sky.

The shuttle's two solid rocket boosters separated from the craft without incident and Discovery was safely on its way towards Earth orbit.

The launch marked the start of the third shuttle mission since January 1986, when the shuttle Challenger exploded killing all seven astronauts on board and forcing a 32-month grounding of the shuttle programme.

Discovery roared from its pad at 9:57 a.m. (1457 GMT), nearly two hours later than planned be-

Discovery blasts off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The space shuttle Discovery blasted off Monday on the first manned U.S. space flight of the year, with its primary mission to deploy a \$100 million tracking satellite.

After a three-week delay caused by technical troubles and a nearly two-hour wait for fog to lift, Discovery thundered from its sea-side launch pad atop a mountain of smoke and flame and soared into a cloudless sky.

Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) regard Discovery's flight as a crucial test of the space agency's ability to resume a regular and reliable schedule of shuttle missions. Six other flights are planned for this year, the most since 1985.

"This flight is absolutely vital," Richard Truly, NASA's chief of space flight, said at a pre-launch news conference.

The crew's main task, scheduled for six hours after liftoff, is to deploy a NASA tracking and communications satellite identical to the one released by Discovery in September when shuttle

flights resumed.

The 2,300 kilogramme craft is designed to complete a satellite network that will give ground controllers nearly continuous radio communication with shuttles in orbit.

Some private space experts believe the network could also be used by the U.S. Defence Department to relay information from spy satellites.

Discovery's astronauts have a number of complex tasks to perform during five days in orbit and will also tend to four laboratory rats and dozens of fertilised chicken eggs.

A few animal welfare groups have opposed the experiments as cruel and unnecessary, but the NASA insists it has taken every precaution to guarantee humane treatment.

Until the fog rolled in NASA officials had called Discovery's countdown one of the smoothest ever.

"It seems a little scary that it is going this well," said shuttle test director Charles Henschel before the delay.

Discovery's flight will be the 28th of the shuttle programme but only the third since 1985 when the space shuttle Challenger exploded after liftoff, killing all seven astronauts on board.

NASA was under pressure to get Discovery off the ground to make way for the arrival of its sister shuttle Atlantis, which is due to ferry the \$500 million Magellan probe into orbit April 28 on the first leg of its voyage to Venus. The flight is due to end Saturday morning with a landing on a dry lake bed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Discovery's commander is navy Captain Michael Coats. The pilot is air force Colonel John Blaha and the mission specialist is marine Colonel James Buchli, marine Colonel Robert Springer and medical Doctor James Bagian.

Rightists post gains in West Germany, setbacks in France

ULTRA-right-wing groups campaigning on an anti-foreign platform posted major gains in municipal elections in West Germany's Hesse state but suffered a sharp setback in local polls in France.

In West Germany, provisional results gave the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NDP) a surprising 6.6 per cent of the vote in Hesse's largest city, Frankfurt, where about one-fifth of the population is foreign.

The party last won seats in state assemblies in the 1960s.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) lost ground throughout the state. In Frankfurt, West Germany's financial capital, they slipped to 35 per cent against 50 per cent in 1985 municipal polls.

Six weeks after a CDU-led coalition was voted out of office in West Berlin when an anti-immigrant party siphoned off right-wing votes, Kohl's party saw its share of the poll in Hesse

slump by seven percentage points to an average 33 per cent.

In France, the National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen slumped badly with a national average of seven per cent, according to computer forecasts in the first round of elections for control of more than 36,000 municipalities.

The anti-immigrant National Front scored close to 20 per cent in Metz and Strasbourg, near the West German border, but saw its vote collapse in the southern bastions, with the Marseille vote alone losing more than 10 points from 28 per cent in last year's presidential election.

The Socialist government, with 46 per cent, was able to claim a modest victory with its vote only marginally lower despite a wave of public sector strikes.

The centre-right opposition parties, however, dropped to about 50 per cent — down three percentage points from six years ago when they benefited from a

strong swing against the new Socialist administration of President Francois Mitterrand.

France's small "Greens" Movement also upset the political balance, scoring up to four per cent nationally but climbing to seven per cent in eastern Alsace, bordering West Germany.

The scores left both the front and the environmentalists in a position to sway the final run-off round March 19, when candidates from the mainstream parties will face off for control of France's major cities and provincial towns.

Prime Minister Michel Rocard lost no time in trying to rally the environmentalist camp behind the Socialists, who may need the extra votes to recover some of the 31 cities which swung against them in a protest vote six years ago.

Rocard stressed during a televised statement that "The government too is fighting for the environment." — Reuter

Gorbachev ideas half-baked — Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — A former senior Kremlin leader, running hard for election to a new-style parliament, told millions of Muscovites Sunday some policies championed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev were half-baked.

Boris Yeltsin, ousted in November 1987 as the capital's Communist Party chief, was speaking in an unprecedented televised debate with his opponent in the race to represent Moscow in the Congress of People's Deputies.

"We have to take full-blooded measures, not half-measures," he replied when asked why he was still calling for reductions in defence spending and the space programme when cuts had already been announced. "These were half-measures."

Yeltsin, 57, in another implicit

criticism of official policies, said capital investment in heavy industry should be cut by 40 per cent "and not by the five to seven per cent suggested by some economists and some other people."

Yevgeny Brakov, director of the huge Zil Car plant, faced Yeltsin in the debate, televised on the Moscow regional network which can be seen by 20 million people in and around the city.

There have been stormy election meetings across the country over the past few weeks but the encounter was the first involving well-known figures standing for an important seat to be televised in an almost Western-style debate.

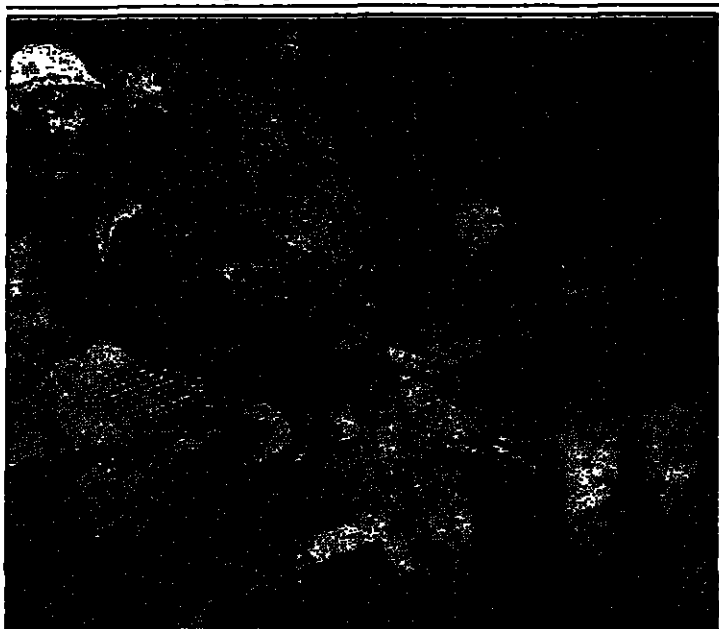
While the two strongly differed in style — with Yeltsin reflective and slow in responding and Brakov, 51, occasionally showing a

flash of anger — there appeared little substantial difference in their platforms.

Yeltsin, in semi-disgrace since he was dropped as a junior member of the Kremlin's ruling Politburo a year ago, told viewers he was happy "that at last I have been allowed to talk to all Muscovites through television."

Although he has been interviewed on Moscow radio, his supporters said he was being kept off television which reached more people. They also say Brakov is the "official" candidate, backed by the city authorities.

In a reference to this issue, Yeltsin told viewers: "The Moscow city party is using all the powerful propaganda means at its disposal to support one of the two candidates. I do not think this is correct."



Kosovo's underground resistance defies government orders to return to work.

Downed Ontario jet 'black box' destroyed

DRYDEN, Ontario (R) — Flight recorders containing information about Friday's crash of an Air Ontario jet, which killed 24 people, were destroyed in the blaze that engulfed the aircraft, according to investigators.

"The cockpit voice recorder — the tape was unusable, and in the flight data recorder, the tape was just a little molten ball," Joe Jackson, chief investigator for the Canadian Aviation Safety Board, said Sunday of the recorders found in charred wreckage.

"It will make the investigation tougher," he added.

The jet, a Winnipeg-bound Fokker F-28 carrying 65 passengers and four crew, clipped treetops and exploded in flames moments after takeoff during a snowstorm in this rural Ontario community.

Jackson said it was "unusual and very disappointing" that the flight recorders, located to the rear of the jet away from the main fire, failed to survive the crash.

The jet — Flight 363, which

originated in Thunder Bay, Ontario — broke into pieces about one kilometre from the Dryden airport runway. Only its nose and tail sections were left intact.

The flight data recorder would have provided clues as to the plane's condition before it went down. The voice recorder told investigators the last words of the doomed plane's pilot and co-pilot, both of whom were killed.

"There are indications from various sources that the wings were contaminated with snow and slush," said Jackson. But he said nothing firm was yet known about the cause of the crash.

Surviving passengers reported seeing ice on the plane's wings and said the aircraft was not decelerated before takeoff.

A paper-thin buildup of ice on the wings was blamed for Canada's worst aviation disaster — a 1985 crash in Gander, New Foundland, where 256 people, mainly American soldiers, died in the crash of a chartered Arrow Air DC-8.

Kosovo miners defy return to work order

BELGRADE (AP) — Ethnic Albanian miners in Kosovo continued a strike Monday, defying a ban on all work stoppages in the restive Yugoslav province, the state Tanjug news agency reported.

Tanjung said the majority of more than 2,000 Albanian employees at three key Kosovo mines, the Kiskica and Stari Trg lead-zinc mines, and the Gole magnesite mine, had not shown up for work Monday morning.

Local authorities Sunday served "compulsory work orders" on the miners in an effort to force them to end the politically motivated strike, which began Feb. 21 at the Stari Trg mine with an eight-day sit-in by some 1,300 miners.

They were later joined by ab-

out 400 Gole miners and an undetermined number of workers at the Kiskica mine.

The compulsory work orders are issued in Yugoslavia "in wartime and in cases of an imminent danger of war (or) exceptionally in peacetime in cases of emergency situations," the Belgrade Politika daily said Monday.

It said that failure to abide by the orders could result in criminal charges being filed against the miners.

The orders are in accordance with a partial state of emergency imposed in Kosovo by Yugoslavia's federal presidency Feb. 27 in an effort to stave off possible strife between the ethnic Albanian majority and the Serbian minority in the province.

Papandreou survives censure motion

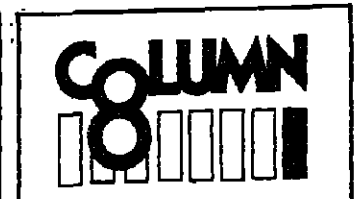
puties joined opposition parties last week in calling for the government to resign after the fugitive banker at the centre of the scandal made his latest allegations.

Greek-American George Koskotas, held in a U.S. prison, said the Papandreou government approved a plan to embezzle millions of dollars from state companies and to make payoffs to senior Socialist officials.

The allegations sparked new attacks on Papandreou over his handling of the case and stepped up calls for the government to resign to end the political crisis rocking Greece since October.

But most of the dissident Socialists, such as former Justice Minister George Manghakis and former Education Minister Antonis Tritsis, indicated they would back the government while continuing to call for the Koskotas scandal to be cleaned up.

Several prominent Socialist de-



Carreras resumes career

MILAN (AP) — Spanish tenor Jose Carreras, resuming his career full time after overcoming leukemia, says he will sing an entire opera this summer and begin filming a movie about Enrico Caruso in the fall.

"I am ready to face this challenge as a real professional, not as a miraculously healed person," the singer told a news conference Tuesday at Milan's La Scala theatre. Carreras, who has performed a number of concerts since he began a comeback last year, said he will sing in Luigi Cherubini's "Medea" in Merida, Spain, in July. Carreras, who fell ill nearly two years ago, made his announcement hours after an emotional two-hour concert Monday night in the prestigious Milan theatre that drew overflows from a sold-out crowd.

"Carreras proved he fully regained his voice," the daily Corriere Della Serra wrote under the headline "The Triumph of Carreras."

Mother serves son's detention

POMONA, Kansas (AP) — A woman whose son was given detention for missing high school believed it was not his fault — so she served the punishment for him. Vickie Esquivel said she turned off her three boys' alarm clocks after she heard from a friend that school had been cancelled because of a winter storm Jan. 30. It wasn't. The Esquivels realised that school was in session after the snowstorm stopped and one of the boys ran into two of his teachers at a store in this farming community. The teachers were getting lunch. That story was good enough to get the youngest and middle son off the hook, but the Pomona high school principal wanted Sam, 16, to serve a detention. Instead, Ms. Esquivel spent an hour and 45 minutes vacuuming and cleaning at school March 3 and again Tuesday. The idea of having Esquivel serve the sentence came from superintendent James Cain, who said he "made the comment more in jest than in meaning."

After taking him up on the idea, Esquivel said she is satisfied. So is Sam, though he wonders why his mother stopped at serving detention. "She could have done my homework," he said.

Ray doesn't celebrate birthday

NASHVILLE (AP) — March 10 has double significance for James Earl Ray: It was 20 years ago that date that he pleaded guilty to killing the Reverend Martin Luther King Junior and it also was his 61st birthday. But no celebrations were in store by Ray, now a Brushy Mountain state prison inmate. He spent March 10 as another day working in the prison's laundry and continued to pass time on his 99-year prison term. "This is a big holiday for prosecutors, judges and the media to celebrate," Ray said in a telephone interview from the prison. "Not me."

Ray doesn't celebrate birthday

celebrate birthday

celebrate birthday

celebrate birthday

One man's flounder is another's platfish

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government has just published a booklet establishing that one man's flounder is another man's eyed platfish. "The Fish List: Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guide to acceptable market names for food fish sold in interstate commerce" is a compilation of the market names that the government accepts for imported and domestically available fish sold for human consumption.

The booklet was published jointly by the FDA and the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service, chiefly to help the industry comply with the law that requires that a species of fish be marketed under a consistent, national name no matter what the locals might call it. Take rockfish. "People in the mid-Atlantic area call striped bass rockfish," said Mary Snyder, assistant to the director of the division of regulatory guidance at the FDA, one of the compilers of "The Fish List."

Turn in a pusher, get reward

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) — The Alabama state senate is considering a bill that would fight drugs with a jackpot — a \$75,000 lottery involving those who turn in major pushers. The bill, which passed the Senate judiciary committee Wednesday and now goes to the full senate, calls for a sheriff and district attorney to certify the names of informants. The governor would draw a winner each year. The bill's sponsor, senator Mac Parsons, said money is the best way to get the average person involved in the war on drugs.

Italy's macho males threatened by campaigning housewives

By Jill Serjeant
Reuter

MILAN — Italy's macho males feel under threat and reckon its time to reassert themselves.

But in a country where most men wouldn't be seen dead carrying a shopping bag, scornful females say the spoilt Italian male has rarely had it so good.

In the same month as the Italian Housewives' Federation announced plans to fight the next general elections, a divorced Milanese entrepreneur was founding the National Association for the Salvation of the Italian Male.

"Italian men have been trampled on by women for far too long. It's time for us to wake up and re-establish our lost supremacy," the association's President Umberto Gallini told Reuters.

Since Gallini placed a newspaper advertisement last month inviting unhappily married men to call his number, the telephone has rarely stopped ringing.

He now has 43 members united in a desire to shake off the yoke of matrimony and campaign for a national referendum to replace life-long commitment with a no-strings, three-year contract renewable only if both parties agree.

"We don't hate women — on the contrary. But they're cunning and sly while men are naive, and when a marriage is over, they rob you for all you've got," Gallini, 45, said.

According to his association the woes of the Italian male began in 1975 when parliament

approved a new family code giving husbands and wives equal rights and duties.

Previously the husband was the legal head of the family and decided where it should live and how the children should be brought up.

"Women are always demanding something but they live longer than men, can retire earlier than men and when marriage is over they get half your money and property and use the children as emotional and financial blackmail."

"Now the Housewives' Federation are gearing up. We men really must be saved," he said.

As well as trying to gather support for a referendum to introduce the three-year contract, the association is organising all-male holidays to exotic destinations such as the Caribbean and Madagascar "where the Italian male is still appreciated."

Hardly surprisingly such talk is guaranteed to ruffle the feathers of the Italian housewives' movement.

Formed only six years ago, the Housewives' Federation, now counts 500,000 members dedicated to seeking recognition for the unpaid and unrecognised work that women do in the home.

Male members

To the horror of Gallini's group, they have about 900 male members. Most are widowers or divorced men unable to cope domestically without the female touch but a small number are men who support the cause, or husbands

who have swapped jobs with career-minded wives.

"We still have the sort of culture in which women do everything. We are trying to change public opinion and persuade Italians that it's not un-macho for men to wash the floor, or make a cup of coffee," Alessandra Caradonna, president of the northern Lombardy section of the Federation, told Reuters.

"I know many men, including my own husband, who will not even carry a shopping bag because they are afraid of what their male friends would say if they saw them," Caradonna said.

As in most other Western nations, the growth of industry coupled with higher material aspirations and better educational opportunities has meant that many more married Italian women are working full time outside the home than 30 years ago.

Heavy burden

But Italian society still expects them also to shoulder all the burdens of running a home, looking after children and often elderly relatives as well, Caradonna said.

Yet Italian statutes still define the housewife as "a non-productive person dependent on others."

"Unfortunately Latin culture is still one in which the mamma does everything for her son and he grows up not expecting to lift a finger for himself."

"Women get the men they deserve so it's up to do the changing," Caradonna said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Chun may testify

SEOUL (R) — Former South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan is finally willing to testify before national assembly panels probing abuse of power during his eight-year rule, state radio said Monday. The Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) quoted an unidentified senior ruling party official as saying Chun, in internal exile at a remote Buddhist temple, had conveyed the message through a close aide. "I understand he (Chun) expressed willingness to testify in the belief his testimony could help break the political deadlock," the radio quoted the official as saying. A ruling party spokesman declined to comment on the report. Chun has repeatedly snubbed summonses to appear at assembly hearings despite opposition threats to charge him with "contempt of parliament," an offence carrying a maximum penalty of five years in jail.

Amnesty asks for Kampuchea visit

BANGKOK (AP) — Amnesty International urged the pro-Vietnamese government in Kampuchea Monday to provide information about political prisoners still believed held without charges or trial. The London-based human rights group said in a statement that the Phnom Penh government had repeatedly failed to respond to its request that an Amnesty International delegation be allowed to visit Kampuchea. In a June 1987 report, Amnesty International charged that thousands of political prisoners had been held in recent years in the People's Republic of Kampuchea (Cambodia), saying it had the names of more than 400 such detainees. "Amnesty International is concerned that some of these political prisoners may still be detained," the statement said. It said the government had apparently failed to investigate reports of summary executions and harsh treatment of detainees.

Berne considers limiting chemicals

BERNE (R) — Switzerland is considering whether to control the export of technology that can be used for making chemical weapons, a government spokesman said Monday. The move follows Swiss and U.S. concern that an industrial plant being built in Egypt, with the help of a Zurich-based engineering firm, could be used to make poison gas. Under Swiss law the government was able to ask but not force the contractor, Krebs Und Co. AG, to quit the project at Abu Zaabal, north of Cairo. Krebs confirmed last Friday it had pulled out early this month. Spokesman Achille Casanova told reporters a six-member committee, headed by a legal expert from the Federal Military Department, would study whether to make the export of such technology to areas of tension subject to Switzerland's war materials law. This law outlaws the unlicensed export of 12 chemicals commonly used in making chemical weapons, but does not bar companies from helping to build chemical plants.

U.K. judge jails scared witness

LONDON (R) — A woman jailed for refusing to testify against a man accused of assaulting her was freed Monday amid an outcry against the judge who sent her to prison. This was the latest in a series of cases in which British judges have been accused of passing bizarre sentences. Judge James Pickles ordered Michelle Renshaw, 24, to be held for seven days when she told him in court at Leeds in northern England Friday she was too scared to testify against the man, a former boyfriend, after receiving threatening telephone calls. She was released from jail three days early for good behaviour. "It was a deliberate contempt of court which has perverted justice and maybe prevented a man being properly dealt with by a court," Judge Pickles said. "If I am giving to protect (women)... it is essential that the women concerned give evidence." But his action raised a storm of protest from the press and politicians who said he punished an innocent woman while letting a suspected criminal go free. "Judge Pickles is a fool if he believes that sending the innocent to prison will help to bring the guilty to book," the Daily Mirror newspaper said in an editorial.

Botha will stay on another year

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African President P.W. Botha ignored party pressure for his resignation Sunday and said in his first television interview since a stroke in January that he intends to remain in office for another year. He said he planned to stay in power until the end of his term, which can be extended to March next year. "I am not clinging to a post... I do not pursue power simply for the sake of power." Botha told state-run television in an interview conducted at his South Coast holiday home. Botha, 73, called his stroke Jan. 18 "an accident (that) affected my health" and said he felt strong enough to resume work Wednesday, budget day. He would then see his term out, he said. "That was always my intention." He dismissed reports that the party wanted him to retire as the work of people seeking to undermine South Africa.

First U.S. defence scandal trial

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (AP) — Prosecutors are preparing to try their first case in the U.S. Defence Department purchasing scandal this month, nearly three years after they began the coast-to-coast investigation. Already, a defence contracting firm, Hazeltine Corporation, of Greenlawn, New York, a former top executive of Unisys Corporation, a former procurement officer with the Marine Corps and seven other defence industry figures have pleaded guilty to a variety of charges. U.S. attorney Henry Hudson of the eastern district of Virginia, who is directing the wide-ranging case, said he is pleased with the progress of the investigation of the \$150 billion Defence Department procurement system.